United Nations E/C.2/2018/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 December 2017

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2018 regular and resumed sessions
29 January–7 February and 23 February, and 21–31 May and
11 June 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;
   (c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.
4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;
   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.
5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

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(b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;

(c) Other related matters.

7. Consideration of special reports.

8. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2019 session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2018 session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Committee elects its Chair and four Vice-Chairs. In accordance with rule 19, Bureau members are eligible for re-election. One Vice-Chair is later designated to also serve as Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Committee shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda for the current session was approved by the Council in its decision 2017/276.

3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

(a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

The Committee will consider applications and requests for reclassification deferred from the sessions of previous years.

Documentation

Applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held during the period 2008–2017 (E/C.2/2018/CRP.1) and requests for reclassification deferred from 2015–2017 (E/C.2/2018/CRP.2).

(b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

The Committee will consider new applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification from non-governmental organizations and will act thereon.

Documentation

New applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: memorandums by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2018/R.2 and R.2/Add.1–26).

Requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2018/R.3).

(c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status

The Committee considers new applications from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.

Documentation

Request for a merger deferred from 2017: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2018/CRP.3).

4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

(a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

(b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, organizations in consultative status with the Council are required to submit, every fourth year, a report on their activities relating to, or in support of, the United Nations. The Committee will consider deferred quadrennial reports (1998–2015) and quadrennial reports submitted for the 2013–2016 period.

Documentation

Compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2018/CRP.4)

Quadrennial reports for the 2013–2016 period: notes by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2018/2 and Add.1–31)

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will report orally on the item.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations

(b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group

At its 2000 session, the Committee established an informal working group, open to all members of the Committee, to review its methods of work, including accreditation issues, procedures, coordination with the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, enhancement of the non-governmental organizations information process and security issues.

(c) Other related matters

Organizations requesting a change of name.

Documentation

Compilation of requests for change of name received by the Secretariat (E/C.2/2018/CRP.5)

7. Consideration of special reports

8. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

In its decision 2002/225, the Council established the general voluntary trust fund and requested the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch to identify and obtain the necessary financial, human and technical resources needed to carry out, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, Governments and other interested stakeholders, the development projects envisaged in the future framework of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

The Secretariat will report orally thereon.

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2019 session of the Committee

In its resolution 1894 (LVII), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit at each session of a subsidiary body of the Council a draft provisional agenda for its following session, together with information relating to documentation.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee

The Committee is required to report to the Council on its regular session.

United Nations E/C.2/2018/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2018 regular session
29 January–7 February and 23 February 2018

Quadrennial reports for the period 2013–2016 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs	2
2.	Action solidaire pour un développement entretenu à la base	3
3.	African Artists for Development	4
4.	African Women's Association	5
5.	Agence internationale pour le développement	6
6.	Amis des étrangers au Togo	8
7.	Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne âgée	10
8.	Association d'aide à l'éducation de l'enfant handicapé	11
9.	Association internationale des médecins pour la promotion de l'éducation et de la santé en Afrique	12
10.	Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant	14
11.	Association of African Women for Research and Development	16
12.	Association points-cœur	17
13.	Association pour l'action sociale et le développement	18
14.	Association pour la promotion de la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et la participation au développement de la femme africaine	20
15.	Association sénégalaise pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables "KokkiEnergie"	22

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs

Special, 2005

Introduction

Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs is a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to promoting peace and stemming the multiple cycles of violence in the 14 member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region through concerted action.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Pursuant to article 4 of its statute, the organization aims to seek ways and means to reconcile the imperatives of peace and development to improve the living conditions of the people of the Great Lakes region, through socioeconomic activities in urban, preurban and rural areas.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has joined the Pan-African Coalition for Peace, Security and African Integration, an informal platform of NGOs with the goal of defending political alternation in Africa and promoting democracy.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization cooperates with Swiss civil society, including the informal platform of Swiss NGOs on the Great Lakes region, the Action de Développement Suisse-Afrique association and Swissprod, an industrial and economic platform specializing in the establishment of state-of-the-art vocational and technical industrial schools in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

From January 2013 to September 2016, the organization participated in all the main activities and sessions of the United Nations, including those related to human rights, the universal periodic review of States, the environment and all meetings related to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

Cooperation with the United Nations is through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organization also cooperates with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the situation of refugees in North Africa.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization is firmly committed to promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in such areas as violations of the rights of women, rape as a weapon of war, restriction of democracy, peace, security, respect for individual freedoms, health and the environment.

2. Action solidaire pour un développement entretenu à la base

Special, 2013

Introduction

Action solidaire pour un développement entretenu à la base was granted special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2013. This recognition is the result of its efforts to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations, which it has unfailingly deployed since its establishment in 1996. Since this recognition, the organization has consistently strengthened its achievements and constantly improved its work to reduce the poverty that affects many people around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to contribute to the promotion of comprehensive and participatory development in grass-roots and urban communities. Its objectives are to work for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children; to promote the health of women and children,; to prevent HIV/AIDS and community health problems in general; to initiate and promote development projects aimed at training, job creation and the socioeconomic integration of the population; to promote women's cooperatives for collective action in the areas of development, savings and credit; to support social, humanitarian, development and agropastoral projects and to implement programmes for the protection of the environment; and to foster South-South and North-South cooperation.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization did not participate directly in the work of the United Nations owing to a lack of means. However, it has always taken the various resolutions emanating from its work into account as it implements programmes and projects in the field. Communities have been constantly informed of the great progress made in issues related to poverty and the elderly, ensuring their participation in responsible and well-supported community actions geared to improving their living conditions.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fifty-eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States, from 10 to 21 March 2014.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization worked on projects implemented in Togo by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to combat sexually transmitted infections, malaria and tuberculosis, as well as projects related to grass-roots development. The organization also worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to intensify efforts to combat sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS in rural areas of Togo during the period.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization has engaged in several activities during the four-year period that are fully geared towards the achievement of the MDGs. These are projects benefiting women, children and people in general, as detailed below:

- Thanks to the support of its partner, Orphelin Sida International, support for the enrolment of over 250 AIDS orphans in Togo each year, paying school fees and covering school supplies, food and medical support worth more than CFAF 15,000,000 each year;
- Thanks to the support of the Japanese embassy in Togo, construction and outfitting with medical equipment of a health centre in Kpémé to bring medical care to the people and to curb deaths resulting from a lack of appropriate care, especially among pregnant women during delivery;
- Ongoing programme of training in new information technologies for orphans that annually graduates 16 youths (8 girls and 8 boys) in web technologies, with financial support from Orphelin Sida International, France;
- Ongoing campaign against HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy and child trafficking and exploitation. The organization works in the areas of women's capacity-building and empowerment and youth employment by each year supporting around a dozen youths in the creation of microenterprises. It supports around a dozen villages with information and participatory capacity-building and has supported the revitalization of 10 village development committees, taking into account gender equality and the roles and responsibilities of the members.

3. African Artists for Development

Special, 2013

Introduction

Established in 2009 to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Artists for Development endowment fund links community development projects and contemporary African artists. It develops, supports and finances development projects in sub-Saharan Africa by associating each project with the engagement of contemporary African artists to form progressive partnerships capable of generating sustainable economic, social and societal development, well-being and better lives.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to support local development initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa that have a lasting economic, social and societal impact through artistic and cultural projects; to enable and enhance contemporary artistic creations associated with initiatives supported by the organization; and to create development synergies by means of partnerships with international and cultural institutions.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Refugees on the Move programme, established in 2011 in Chad, the Central African Republic, Burundi, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, uses dance as a tool for social and cultural awareness in refugee camps.

Choreographers conduct dance workshops with refugees, gathered around a common objective: achieving personal and community well-being through dance. The Township Orchestra offers music classes for young people from a deprived neighbourhood of Cape Town, South Africa. Making music in a group is one way to involve these young people in a learning process. Operation Prevention and the Testing Rap were launched in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2009 to combat HIV/AIDS. The collaboration with the SOS-AIDS association gave birth to the Diamants de Kamituga (Kamituga Diamonds), a comic strip conveying prevention messages. Testing numbers rose after 250.000 copies were distributed free of charge.

The programme "Les Belles Bibliothèques" (Beautiful Libraries) helps to combat illiteracy. The first library, opened in Cotonou, Benin, was visited by over 25,000 readers in its first year of operation.

The sinking of three wells as part of the Women for Water programme guarantees Makwacha village, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, uninterrupted access to drinking water.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the tenth session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, under the auspices of OHCHR, to examine the reports of Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan and Tunisia, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7 to 18 March 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Refugees on the Move programme, present in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa, is implemented in the camps of UNHCR. The whole process is conducted in close collaboration with the Office. The programmes carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in conjunction with the SOS-AIDS association include collaboration with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to deliver comics and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the distribution of school kits to children with HIV/AIDS.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

In response to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, the organization has developed three programmes to combat HIV/AIDS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — Operation Prevention, the Testing Rap and Les Bulles de Bukavu (the Bukavu Comic) — launching awareness-raising campaigns and encouraging testing. The first "Beautiful Library", opened in Cotonou in 2012, contributes to SDGs 4 and 5 with knowledge. "Township Orchestra" contributes to SDG 4. "Refugees on the Move" contributes, inter alia, to SDGs 3 and 5 by working with women and men of all ages and communities collectively.

4. African Women's Association

Special, 2005

Introduction

The African Women's Association is an NGO recognized by the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Founded in Cameroon, it registered its name with the African Intellectual Property Organization. It was founded by a group of young visionary African women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to combat poverty, promote the rights of women and children and empower young women who have dropped out of school and rural women's groups.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

For the organization, contributions to the work of the United Nations are considered just as important as they are mandatory.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participates at each annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, United States. It participates in all events organized by the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization works with most of the bodies in the United Nations system: UNDP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, International Labour Office, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goal

The organization arranges annual community health days for orphans and vulnerable children, as well as for relocated family groups. It also organizes school holidays in various towns and villages in Cameroon.

5. Agence internationale pour le développement

General, 2001

Introduction

The Agence internationale pour le développement (AIDE), established in 1986, is an NGO that focuses on humanitarian action and development assistance.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Its goal is to work for the benefit of all impoverished persons and to combat all forms of discrimination, to take action to strengthen respect for human rights and democracy, to provide food and clothing to needy individuals and to participate in campaigns to combat poverty, racism and exclusion.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

AIDE organized the following side events at meetings of the Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland:

- Twenty-fourth session: Women and Children's Rights in Conflict Zones, 12 September 2013;

- Twenty-fifth session: Right to Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Movement, 11 March 2014;
- Twenty-sixth session: Impunity and Human Rights, 20 June 2014;
- Twenty-seventh session: United Nations Resolutions and Conflicts, 19 September 2014; Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights, 17 September 2014; Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa, 16 September 2014;
- Twenty-eighth session: Freedom of Religion, 15 March 2015; Right to Education and Freedom of Expression in Conflict Zones, 16 March 2015; Report of the Anti-Fraud Office of the European Commission concerning major diversions of humanitarian aid funding, 18 March 2015;
- Twenty-ninth session: Session of the Human Rights Council on "Impunity: Impact on Women and Children", 26 June 2015; Impunity: Human rights of refugees and migrants, 25 June 2015;
- Thirtieth session: Impunity and Human Rights, 16 September 2015;
- Thirty-first session: Session of the Human Rights Council on "Freedom of Assembly", 18 March 2016; Impartiality and Human Rights, 17 March 2016;
- Thirty-second session: Session of the Human Rights Council on "Freedom of Assembly", 18 March 2016; Trends in Development and Human Rights in Morocco, 21 June 2016; Human Rights and the Death Penalty, 23 June 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in all the plenary meetings of the Human Rights Council, as well as in its Social Forum, held from 1 to 3 April 2014, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

AIDE works with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as with the International Organization for Migration.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Fédération des Agences Internationales pour le Développement organizes annual campaigns to combat poverty, insecurity and all forms of discrimination.

Thanks to its activities in Paris, France:

- 14,172 families have received food and clothing;
- 823 persons have received basic training;
- 4,524 persons have been helped to prepare their tax returns;
- 9,321 persons have received assistance with completing the application form for government medical aid;
- 3,842 people have been helped to open a bank account; and
- 195 persons have received help with their immigration status.

In Morocco, the Fédération des Agences Internationales pour le Développement oversaw the distribution of 453 tons of food and clothing for families or individuals living in highly insecure conditions. It established a shelter for older persons, and a day-care centre for migrants in Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, where it takes care of immigrants in both regular and irregular status.

6. Amis des étrangers au Togo

Special, 2013

Introduction

Amis des étrangers au Togo (ADET) (Friends of foreigners in Togo) was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 2013.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The NGO is active in the areas of social development, economic development and environmental development (the three pillars of sustainable development) and the advancement of women; its work is of international scope.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

ADET is part of the United Nations work team for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. ADET has been invited to important international meetings and conferences, such as the sixty-sixth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, which took place from 30 May to1 June 2016. It was also invited to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Kenya; a conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Ottawa, Canada, on 14 December 2016; a meeting of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for South-South cooperation; and the C 20, held in Turkey on 15–16 September 2015.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

ADET has participated in numerous United Nations meetings, in person as well as online and via social media, on topics including:

- Multilateral institutions and their engagement with civil society;
- Response to the questionnaire on housing and urbanization;
- Women and genital mutilation;
- Albinism and human rights;
- Peace, poverty and sustainable development;
- Journalists and human rights;
- Human rights education;
- Discrimination against women;
- Wrongful arrests;
- Sport and the Olympic Games;
- Digital communication and private law;
- The promotion of democracy and equitable international order;
- Boko Haram;

- Energy and climate change;
- Disasters, security, loss and destruction;
- Protection of the environment;
- Business and human rights;
- Finance for addressing climate change and networks for climate action;
- Amending the sustainable development report;
- Amending sustainable development financing systems;
- Natural resources and the rights of assembly and freedom of association;
- Group work on the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Structures for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Gender and discrimination against women;
- Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia;
- Financing of development goals;
- Protection of the environment;
- Women and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Natural resources and the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; and
- Questionnaires on citizen engagement for development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The upkeep 2015, the NGO received the most relevant information from ONUCIDI, and actively participated in the global consultations on "The World We Want after 2015", with The World We Want Foundation, the United Nations Foundation, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (doCip), UNDP and the French Development Agency, among others.

The organization is a member of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), a network with the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all. It has also joined the World Bank Group, The Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, doCip, Global Age Watch, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers, the United Nations Environment Programme, Clean Energy Access, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Power-Gen Africa, BI Intelligence, Loomio, DataShift, Climate Reality Leadership Corps and Aspire Foundation, among others.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No contribution was specified.

7. Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne âgée

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne âgée (ACAMAGE) (Cameroonian Association for the Care of the Elderly) takes care of the elderly in Cameroon.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's aim is to ensure older persons' well-being, and that older persons are able to live dignified lives. Its goals are to ensure the care of abandoned older persons and the provision of education and training, and to promote intergenerational solidarity, rights and health. ACAMAGE chairs the Cameroonian civil society organizations' committee for the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization made a presentation on the abuse of older persons, on 28 May 2013 at the Congressional Palace in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and subsequently launched a project to protect the rights of older women and widows. On 29 May 2013, it made a donation of 150,000 CFA francs to the Simbok and Bethanie care homes; on 20 August 2014, it made a donation of warm clothing and food to Bethanie, as well as leading an educational discussion on hygiene at the home.

The organization has celebrated the internationals days for older persons. In 2013 ACAMAGE organized an educational discussion on the promotion of intergenerational solidarity and a demonstration on geriatric assessment at the Congressional Palace in Yaoundé, as well as conducting a visit and making a donation to elderly women in Mfou Women's Prison. In 2014 the organization held a workshop on the proposed convention on the rights of older persons at Maison Don Bosco, Yaoundé. In 2015 an educational discussion on older persons and the Sustainable Development Goals was held at the Yaoundé sports complex. In 2016, ACAMAGE made home visits to 20 disabled older persons who had been rescued from the street in Batoufam. Each year, the organization commemorates international World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June, by disseminating its publication "Fight elder abuse". It publishes *ACAMAGE Newsletter* and *ABC of Ages* respectively six times and twice a year.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fourth session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, which took place from 12 to15 August 2013, and in its seventh session, from 12–15 December 2016. It prepared written and oral statements and actively participated in the side events and morning briefings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperates with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to promote empowerment and prevent violence against older women in rural areas, and with the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on the drafting of a convention on the rights of older persons.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization has worked to further, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) through five series of donations, as well as donations of food products, and three vaccination campaigns. It continues to advance education and training with its publications *ACAMAGE Newsletter* and *ABC of Ages*.

8. Association d'aide à l'éducation de l'enfant handicapé

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Association d'aide à l'éducation de l'enfant handicapé is an NGO that promotes international solidarity to support the education of children with disabilities.

It operates in France and Cameroon.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization seeks to contribute to the achievement of education for all, including children with disabilities, through awareness-raising, advocacy and multifaceted support for education and the enrolment in school of children with disabilities. The organization is working for a world where all children with disabilities will have access to quality education, will remain in school until the end of a study cycle and will acquire the qualifications and skills needed for their empowerment.

The organization's mission is to promote the right to education for children with disabilities; to contribute to the achievement of quality education for all; and to empower persons with disabilities, particularly girls with disabilities, through education and training.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2013, the organization joined the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in order to expand its activities.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's activities aim to ensure access to human rights for persons with disabilities under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 24), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 29) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2, 3 and 4). They are also part of a process to reduce inequalities between girls and boys in education systems and to empower women through education.

The organization raises awareness and advocates for education for children with disabilities, lobbies for the inclusion of disability in public policies, gives multifaceted support to school enrolment of children with disabilities, especially girls, and assists and supports families.

During the reporting period, the organization launched a project to support the school enrolment of girls with disabilities in Africa. The project aims to expand primary school access and participation by girls with disabilities. A pilot project is under way in Cameroon for the period 2015–2020. The project targets girls with disabilities, their families and the community.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization contributed to the preparation of the High-level Political Forum in 2016 and in 2013 endorsed statements in favour of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The organization participated as a panellist in the side event entitled "Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Women and Girls with Disabilities", jointly organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) at United Nations Headquarters, during the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York, United States of America, from 14 to 24 March 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the second Forum of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities, held in New York, United States, on 24 September 2013, and helped to set up the task force of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPcwd, UNICEF) in 2013. The organization participated in and contributed as a member to the activities undertaken by the task forces on inclusive education, early childhood development and physical education of GPcwd UNICEF. The organization has contributed to and participated in the organization of workshops and international forums with the NGO group of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, on the themes of literacy, early childhood and the role of women in combating poverty. The organization participated in the 2014 International Conference of NGOs, held from 15 to 17 December 2014, and the 2016 International Conference of NGOs, held from 12 to 14 December 2016 at UNESCO, Paris. The organization participated in the thirty-eighth session of the UNESCO General Conference held in November 2015 in Paris.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The activities undertaken by the organization during the reporting period have focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including Goals 2 and 3, through advocacy, awareness-raising, mobilization, promotion of the education of persons with disabilities and empowerment of women.

9. Association internationale des médecins pour la promotion de l'éducation et de la santé en Afrique

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Association internationale des médecins pour la promotion de l'éducation et de la santé en Afrique is a humanitarian organization established on 19 January 2005 in Lomé. It is the leading African NGO specializing in humanitarian medicine and surgery and is present in 11 countries. It works in the areas of health, education and community development.

The organization has already conducted more than 500,000 specialized medical consultations and over 40,000 successful free surgical operations in rural and peri-urban areas and prisons for vulnerable segments of the population in Africa. Every year, it conducts between 1,500 and 2,500 free surgical operations and between 15,000 and 25,000 specialized medical consultations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the organization is to cultivate a sense of social responsibility and to promote volunteerism in the medical profession to provide health and education for all. Its vision is health and education for all in Africa. Its objectives are to organize medical training and research; to conduct free humanitarian medical and surgical missions; to combat communicable and non-communicable diseases; to promote health education through the mass media; to promote community development; and to mobilize human, material and financial resources.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has implemented 50 projects in its priority areas. It conducted training on volunteer service for medical professionals and on humanitarian medicine and medical research for health workers, journalists, local elected officials, community health workers and groups. The association also conducted free humanitarian medical and surgical mobile missions in rural, and peri-urban areas and prisons. It has established a fund to support care for serious curable diseases. It has produced programmes for the mass media and encouraged excellence in medical settings, promoted health education and conducted campaigns to counter communicable and non-communicable diseases. The organization launched a community development programme through the concept of 10 Villages de AIMES-Afrique, a mutual health insurance programme known as MUSA de AIMES-Afrique, and cultural and sports activities.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

AIMES-Afrique participated in world days to address diseases (diabetes, high blood pressure, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, etc.)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization contacted the NGOs office of the Geneva Welcome Centre to find a headquarters to accommodate the organization's Swiss office and ensure its visibility at meetings held at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

AIMES-Afrique has initiated a project called Villages AIMES-Afrique aimed at the transformation of the rural economy in villages (Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1). It constructed buildings and school canteens, raised awareness in rural areas of the importance of school enrolment and promoted excellence in schools (MDG 2). It has raised awareness among rural, peri-urban and prison populations of the importance of pre-natal check-ups, good practices in gynaecology and follow-up of mothers (MDG 4). It conducted an awareness-raising campaign and voluntary testing to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as over 100 medical and surgical mobile humanitarian missions that saw nearly 100,000 medical consultations and 10,000 successful operations carried out (MDG 6). It has also launched a project to support sanitation in villages, neighbourhoods and schools (MDG 7).

10. Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization officially recognized by the State. Its mission is to support vulnerable groups and promote the rights of women and children. It works in such fields as reproductive health rights, elimination of violence against women and children, human rights and continuous advocacy with policymakers. The core mission of the association remains the total elimination of violations of the rights of women and children at risk or in distress.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the organization are to ensure that all Mauritanian women and children enjoy all their rights to life, health, protection, education, employment and dignity; to contribute to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality; to help to combat HIV/AIDS; to contribute to the elimination of violence against women and children; to help to combat practices harmful to the health of girls and women; to promote the rights of women and children; and to encourage the leadership and economic empowerment of women.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2016, the association went through a major administrative and financial reorganization, based on a review and its past experiences. The governance of the organization has changed.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Over the four-year period, the association participated mainly in the international days relevant to women's and children's rights, namely International Women's Day, March 8. On that day, it raised women's awareness through the campaign of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". It subsequently organized sit-ins to denounce acts of violence perpetrated against women, in remembrance of an 8-year old girl who was raped and murdered. The association produced radio and television programmes on violence against women. It also organized four press conferences on the protection of women and children against sexual violence and participated in the annual observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The organization participates in the commemoration of this day by issuing statements concerning respect for the United Nations conventions ratified by Mauritania and their harmonization with domestic legislation. These annual statements are widely publicized in the national and international press. The association also participates annually in the United Nations Universal Children's Day, November 20, and the Day of the African Child, 16 March. On these days, activities are organized for children to participate in cultural and artistic events around the themes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, non-violence, crime and terrorism prevention and the consequences of migration.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2014, the Association coordinated the preparation of the alternative Mauritanian NGO report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and subsequently

participated at a pre-session meeting prior to the fifty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in July 2014. The Association chaired the NGO group, read out a statement on the rights of women and participated in a meeting with the Committee in the presence of its chairperson. In 2015, the Association participated in a Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa, as well as a pre-session meeting on the universal periodic review in Geneva. In 2016, the Association participated in the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, making a statement on the rights of women and children. The report of Mauritania on the universal periodic review was adopted during the session.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association works in partnership with the United Nations agencies present in Mauritania. It participates in almost all the meetings involving civil society related to the planning of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other sectoral meetings. The Association implemented 30 projects including 14 that were funded by United Nations agencies, namely the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. These projects have focused on the elimination of gender-based violence and especially sexual violence, care for survivors, advocacy, prevention and awareness-raising, capacity-building and improvement of the legal framework.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Association works in fields related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1, 2 and 3. In the context of MDG 3, it managed seven projects on the elimination of sexual violence in Mauritania, the promotion of female leadership and women's political participation and awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the withdrawal of the general reservation, and prepared a bill on violence against women and advocated for its adoption. The results are as follows: 2,000 women and girls dared to file complaints against aggressors, the proportion of women parliamentarians increased from 20 per cent to 22 per cent over the four-year period, and 20,100 women became more aware of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and of their rights.

With regard to its contribution to the achievement of MDG 4, the Association implemented two projects, one to identify children with cleft lip and palate and another to raise awareness of early marriage issues. The first project provided surgical, psychological, orthodontological and nutritional care to 50 children with cleft lip and palate. The second project raised awareness among communities of early marriage and acted to annul 20 early marriages during the four-year period.

The Association has implemented two projects that contribute to MDG 5. The first, related to women's access to obstetric packages, concerns capacity-building for health workers and has established a pool of communicators on the issue, as well as raised awareness among women of the importance of obstetric packages in the most isolated rural areas where mortality rates were the highest. As part of its project to improve maternal and newborn health, the Association trained contact points, health workers and teachers and provided follow-up care to women from pregnancy through to delivery, and raised awareness of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, family planning, blood donation and breastfeeding.

11. Association of African Women for Research and Development

Special, 1985

Introduction

The Association of African Women for Research and Development is a pan-African NGO established in 1977 by a group of African women for women researchers, development actors and decision makers. It has nearly 1,000 members in 20 African countries and in the diaspora in Europe and the United States of America. The Association was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1985.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's aims are to analyse and transform gender relations and social conditions in Africa; build a powerful movement of African women combining human rights with the theory and practice of development; and promote the contribution of African women to sustainable and democratic development. The organization also aims to strengthen the capacity of African women to conduct research and disseminate their results; help decision makers to design and formulate gender-sensitive policies focused on the needs of local people; and develop advocacy strategies and instruments that enable African women to access decision-making centres, assert their social and political rights and contribute in a meaningful way to the democratic process in their countries.

Significant changes in the organization

The Association has four new national branches, in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association held a workshop to share the findings of a study entitled "The policies of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and their impact on women who work in the agriculture sector in Africa". It ran a training course for national organizations of young researchers on the impact of WTO policies and economic partnership agreements on women who work in the agriculture sector. The Association carried out a baseline study entitled "The role and representation of women and young people in decision-making bodies in the context of the 2014 local elections in Senegal" and another study entitled "Improving the participation of women and young people in decentralized decision-making bodies to strengthen local democracy and poverty alleviation efforts in Senegal".

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association participated in the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held from 4 to 15 March 2013 in New York. In the framework of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Association led a delegation of 22 people with a view to influencing the intergovernmental mechanisms tasked with drafting final conclusions on the theme "Strengthening the participation of women's organizations in West Africa". At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 10 to 21 March 2014 in New York, the Association, in partnership with the Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement, Genre en Action and the International Council for Adult Education,

held a workshop entitled "Comparative views of gender disparities in the Millennium Development Goals: Views of Africa, Europe and the Americas".

The Association also took part in a training workshop for partners of UN-Women on project management rules and procedures, which was held on 3 and 4 July 2014 at the UN-Women office in Dakar, and attended the Ninth African Regional Conference on Women (20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action), which was held from 17 to 19 October 2014 in Addis Ababa.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association cooperated with the United Nations by:

- Partnering with the UN-Women Regional Office for West Africa to establish a programme entitled "Strengthening the participation of West African women's organizations in the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women by building bridges between stakeholders";
- Participating in a high-level panel for the African launch of the UN-Women report entitled "Progress of the World's Women", held on 8 June 2015 in Dakar.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No activities were specified.

12. Association points-cœur

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Association points-cœur is an international Catholic NGO. Founded in 1990 in France, the Association currently has a presence in 26 countries and four continents. The work of the Association has two main goals: sending young volunteers to poor neighbourhoods to reach the most neglected and spreading a "culture of compassion", with a view to making people the focus of concern in all spheres of life. Free advice, shelter and friendship are the cornerstones of the Association's work.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association addresses isolation through a personal approach. In line with its holistic vision, its charity work is intended to have a positive emotional, material and educational impact on individuals. It encourages its members to make people the focus of all educational, artistic, political, economic and scientific activities. The Association's centres and residences — 21 houses and two villages — are open to all in an effort to end the exclusion of the most marginalized individuals.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association aims to support those most in need. Its work falls into three categories: offering shelter, encouragement and support. By being present and

lending a sympathetic ear, the Association helps to give have-nots back their dignity. In practical terms, such support consists of looking after children, visiting the elderly and people in hospital, holding events for young people, assembling sports teams, organizing cookery classes and providing academic support, among other activities. Through its work, the Association promotes education and development and contributes to the reduction of poverty and exclusion, as prioritized in Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4 and 10, which seek to promote empowerment, equality and quality of life.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association works in five main areas: the right to family life, the right to development, the right to education, human rights education and the right to international solidarity. The work of the Association revolves around the sessions of the Human Rights Council. As a member of several working groups, the Association contributes to discussions and to the promotion and clarification of the above-mentioned rights through various side events and oral and written statements (joint statements). In addition, it monitors debates and decisions within the various organs of the United Nations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

To give one example, the Association worked with the previous Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, helping her with her reports and the draft declaration. An event was held in connection with the thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, at which the Expert presented her last report to representatives of Member States, international organizations and civil society. The Association's activities should be seen against the background of its involvement in the Catholic-inspired NGO working group on the right to international solidarity.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No activities were specified.

13. Association pour l'action sociale et le développement

Special, 2009

Introduction

The Association pour l'action sociale et le développement aims to maintain solidarity mechanisms for the benefit of the population and is convinced that every individual should participate in accordance with his or her financial, moral and physical abilities and should receive assistance according to his or her needs. It seeks to ensure that everyone has access to quality care, regardless of age, gender, medical status, income or any other social, professional, religious or ethnic criteria.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association aims to promote: the profile of women, female empowerment, the involvement of women in civil and social life, mutual aid and solidarity, assistance and community spirit; urban and local social development of communities through education, training, culture, sport, social integration, cultural mediation, medical and humanitarian aid and by looking after orphans, young persons with disabilities and disadvantaged children; sustainable development by promoting and financing microprojects, informal sector work and the participation

of women and young people in the development of their own villages, towns and countries and the environment and by combating crime, exclusion, violence, illiteracy, AIDS, famine, sexually transmitted diseases and other problems; and the exchange of ideas and group dynamics.

Significant changes in the organization

The Association has established a branch in Europe, with a regional office in Limoges, France, with a view to expanding the activities of the Association.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association has contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways:

- It contributed to the United Nations World Water Development Report 2016;
- It participated in the discussions with civil society organizations regarding the final report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015 (FCCC/CP/2015/10);
- It contributed to the final report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its sixth session, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 to 6 November 2015 (CAC/COSP/2015/10); and
- It contributed to the civil society declaration at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association has participated in the following meetings:

- Sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 to 6 November 2015;
- Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015
- Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Association has worked with the Cameroon country offices of UN-Women, UNICEF and UNDP to, respectively, establish a centre that provides medical assistance and support for social integration; help girl victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation; and bring electrical power to rural areas to help disadvantaged communities in Doumé, Cameroon.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Together with its partners and local communities, the Association is working on the ground to design, develop and establish two new development programmes to help women, young people and children. The programmes each have themes and are being rolled out in the various regions depending on the resources, needs and

requirements of the target communities. The programmes are explained in more detail below.

ENERPRO (Environment, Renewable Energy and Hygiene) is intended to raise public awareness of environmental issues, renewable energy (such as solar panels and wind turbines) and waste processing. As part of the programme, local organizations are being established to encourage the public to collect, sort and transport waste to anaerobic digestion plants located in peri-urban and rural areas, which will produce energy in the form of biogas. DEVILA (Development and Local and Artisan Entrepreneurship) helps to establish very small businesses, support microprojects and village savings associations, and show women who work in the informal sector how to develop their businesses and increase profits and artisans how to promote their goods.

The Association has established a medical and social integration centre where women and girls who are victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation can receive help and support finding employment. It has also rolled out a rural electrification project to help disadvantaged communities in Doumé.

14. Association pour la promotion de la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et la participation au développement de la femme africaine

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Association pour la promotion de la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et la participation au développement de la femme africaine is a group of women and girls (primarily victims of violence) working every day in partnership with men and boys to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls without distinction. Activities undertaken to combat that scourge include prevention, sheltering and supporting victims, denouncing perpetrators — following investigation — and protesting against impunity for perpetrators of violence against women. The Association is active throughout the country and aims to expand its activities across Africa.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The activities of the organization aim to prevent violence, assist victims and ensure that there is no impunity for perpetrators of violence against women and girls. The prevention activities aim to raise awareness of the disastrous consequences of violence against women at home, in their immediate environment and in society at large. These activities include mobilizing men through awareness-raising campaigns; educating women who are victims of or exposed to violence; helping women find information about their fundamental rights and autonomy; helping women receive training, with a view to promoting their human development and economic empowerment; preparing future spouses, where there is a need; and changing the dynamics of existing households to reduce violence against women as much as possible. The Association also has a welcome-listen-protect component, combined with care if necessary, and support for victims of violence until they have fully recovered.

Significant changes in the organization.

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has contributed to the work of the United Nations through the following activities:

- Economic empowerment training and assistance for 195 women (computer graphics training for teenage mothers and support and follow-up for women involved in fish smoking and braising).
- Support for the schooling of young daughters of abandoned teenage mothers.
- Work with men and boys to promote gender equality.
- Increase in the number of awareness-raising campaigns on various subjects related to women's empowerment, gender equality, the promotion of harmony at home and in society and the schooling of young girls, including the themes of the United Nations international days.
- Presentation of a socio-legal clinic at the Open Doors days held during the 16 days of activism against violence against women. The Open Doors days were organized by the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family of the Littoral Region.
- Participation in the United Nations Orange the World campaign to engage the community in ending violence against women.
- Involvement in online interactive debates organized by United Nations bodies and in written statements on various subjects covered by the conferences on social development and the Commission on the Status of Women, and also on issues such as disarmament.
- Participation in the "World Wide Views on Climate and Energy" conference held in June 2015 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which was initiated by the United Nations in partnership with other organizations ahead of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Production, in collaboration with two other organizations, of a declaration on climate change entitled "Douala call on climate change", on the theme "Fighting for the climate: Let us sow together the seeds of our future", which was distributed in December 2015.
- In its capacity as a member of the Cameroonian human rights networks, the Association carried out research on the human rights situation with regard to the forced evictions from squatter settlements in Douala, Cameroon, and delivered an outcome in the form of a press briefing on 17 March 2016 at the Hotel Lumière in Doula.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is cooperating with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women through online training on gender equality.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's activities are focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by supporting women's empowerment and the broader development programme through awareness-raising, mobilization, promotion of women's rights and training.

15. Association sénégalaise pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables "KokkiEnergie"

Special, 2013

Introduction

Poverty and environmental degradation go hand in hand, and each of those phenomena can become a cause of the other. If the global population reaches 10 billion in 2050, which would include almost 2 billion in Africa, demands and needs will also increase. This situation makes it necessary to immediately adopt practices consistent with the rational use of natural resources and to make combating poverty and preserving the environment a priority. The Association sénégalaise pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables was created in that context.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are to bring together those seeking to achieve the same goal as members of an extensive network of voluntary humanitarian action to combat poverty in Senegal and around the world, promote the use of renewable energy in all development sectors, reduce the high consumer dependence on expensive industrial energy, help communities to access low-cost electricity, promote sustainable development, renewable energy and the environment, promote healthy agriculture, and eradicate poverty.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization contributed to exchanges of ideas that could further the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The initiatives undertaken focus on the following three areas:

- Promotion of renewable energy
- Gender equality and involvement of women in sustainable development
- The development of a partnership for sustainable development.

The Association has made a large part of the population and public and political decision-makers aware that it is essential to involve the most vulnerable populations in environmental protection policies. Adhering to the principle of joint responsibility through the development of participatory projects presents a challenge. As part of its efforts to help empower women, the Association has established and trained a community of 60 women in the village of Keur Yaba Diop as an economic interest group. They have received financing through a market gardening project run by Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes Environnementales (GREEN Sénégal). The project, which involves 60 plots of land and runs year-round, enables the women in the group to cultivate onions, tomatoes and hibiscus from January to June.

United Nations E/C.2/2018/2/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2018 regular session
29 January–7 February and 23 February 2018

Quadrennial reports for the period 2013–2016 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable	2
2.	Autre vie	3
3.	Benin Environment and Education Society	5
4.	Carré géo et environnement	6
5.	Centre africain de recherche industrielle	8
6.	Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles	9
7.	Centres d'accueil de l'espoir	11
8.	Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies	13
9.	Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme	15
10.	Femmes autochtones du Québec	16
11.	Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche	17
12.	Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international	19
13.	Fondation Surgir	21
14.	Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale	22
15.	Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding	23

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable

Special, 2013

Introduction

In August 2013, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations conferred special consultative status on the non-governmental organization (NGO) Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the organization is to promote sustainable human development with a view to reducing poverty in order to improve people's socioeconomic and cultural living conditions while respecting the environment. Its aims and purposes include building the capacities of its members and local communities; ensuring environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation; protecting the gene pool; providing sanitation and safe drinking water; combating desertification, conserving biodiversity and promoting renewable energy; providing training, education, culture, sports and recreation; ensuring schooling for girls in difficult situations and for children in need and at risk of HIV/AIDS; providing assistance for older persons; promoting women's self-empowerment; developing new information and communication technologies; promoting cultural exchanges among young people, volunteering and internships; ensuring local production, processing, conservation and consumption, and the marketing of local organic agricultural products; combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and opportunistic diseases, and promoting immunization; ensuring local democracy and good governance; and protecting human rights, especially women's rights.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has served as a bridge between local populations and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and now the Sustainable Development Goals, by sharing with its target populations the information that it receives, including the 2014 Human Development Report of the United Nations "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience" and the Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, which focuses on experiences, data on efforts taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and new progress. The organization has reported on the Economic Report on Africa 2016: Greening Africa's Industrialization, published by the Economic Commission for Africa. The NGO is working on the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The NGO is the focal point for the human rights organizations that work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

It liaises with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility. The NGO also has a relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, through its membership of the AIDS platform for civil society organizations of the Plateaux region.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2012–2014, the organization carried out a project in the canton of Lavié (Kloto Prefecture, Plateaux Region of Togo) called "Adaptation of the agricultural production systems of Lavié Huimé Canton to climate change-related phenomena", with funding from the microfinancing programme of the Global Environment Facility. With financial support from its branch based in France, the NGO supported the schooling of 45 pupils from 2013 to 2016. The organization acts as a human rights organization and, in that capacity, participates in elections as an observer on behalf of OHCHR. It also carries out awareness-raising activities in the context of mainstreaming AIDS awareness. The organization trains groups of women in income-generating activities in Tové, Lavié, Kussuntu and Tsamé (Kloto Prefecture).

2. Autre vie

Special, 2013

Introduction

Autre vie is a national development organization established under Beninese law, which has a framework agreement with the Republic of Benin. It aims to take action whenever and wherever the dignity, integrity, or physical and mental well-being of children, young persons and women are threatened. Since 1996, Autre vie has been carrying out activities in support of communities afflicted by poverty, insecurity, discrimination or exclusion.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Autre vie aims to contribute to local, national, regional and international development goals that help girls, women, children, adolescents and young people to thrive, earn a living and enjoy rights, independence and respect in a developed and secure environment. Autre vie has targeted six areas of activity as programmatic priorities: community health, water, hygiene and sanitation; human rights and protection; climate change and food security; education and literacy; community empowerment and development of local economies; and capacity-building.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Autre vie has contributed to the work of the United Nations by implementing the following projects:

- The "Ecotous" (School for All) project, which has facilitated access to a quality education for 2,300 children in Benin;
- An adult literacy and education project, which has helped 2,800 women and men aged 14–45 to become literate in the national language;

- An initiative to promote the reproductive health of young people and adolescents, and includes family planning, has impacted 3,070 women, and 370 new requests for assistance under the initiative have been granted;
- The establishment of 34 citizen Committees of Women for Public Action and the capacity-building of 374 women members of civil society organizations in the area of female leadership;
- Support for the promotion of maternal and child health and good nutrition, which has improved the nutrition of 6,125 children aged 0 to 59 months;
- The promotion of latrines made from local materials to improve basic hygiene and sanitation in 131 rural communities, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- The observance of World Hepatitis Day on 28 July in 2015 and 2016, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Benin;
- The implementation of a project to support the development of the local economy, since 2014;
- Support for an initiative to reforest lagoon banks, carried out with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Benin, under which nearly 18 hectares have been reforested;
- The promotion of community vegetable gardens and livestock-raising with a view to improving the nutritional security of children aged 0 to 59 months;
- Contribution to the promotion of energy saving light bulbs and the promotion of clean energy sources for cooking, through the invention of Mivo solar cookers for cooking, with support from UNDP;
- The development of a campaign against violence to women and girls; and
- The establishment of the honorary title of Defender of the Rights of Children and Women in Africa, through the "Glass Trophies" initiative.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization has implemented the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach for the promotion of basic hygiene and sanitation in 150 towns in the commune of Kandi in Benin, with UNICEF. It has signed a memorandum with UNICEF to contribute to the implementation of its 2014–2018 country programme for Benin. It has signed a memorandum with UNDP concerning the implementation of initiatives for the safeguarding and protection of biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change. It has cooperated with UNDP to implement a project for the reforestation of lagoon banks in Benin, in the communes of Akpro-Missérété and Dangbo.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Autre vie has contributed to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 through the programmes and project initiatives cited in this report.

3. Benin Environment and Education Society

Special, 2013

Introduction

Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established under Beninese law that is concerned with the environment and sustainable development. It is involved in the protection and integrated management of natural resources and in mainstreaming climate change into development policies and programmes in Benin in particular, and in Africa more generally.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of BEES is to promote sustainable development by protecting and conserving biodiversity for the well-being of local populations, through financially sustainable and environmentally and culturally responsible actions. The methodology employed by BEES to achieve its goals includes carrying out actions in support of the sustainable management of natural resources, including water, forest resources and the resources of other fragile ecosystems; promoting education, disseminating information and raising awareness about wetlands, with a view to their conservation and community use, inter alia through actions designed to raise the awareness of the general public, through classroom exercises and through the dissemination of educational tools; promoting ecotourism as a means of nature conservation and an alternative to the overexploitation of natural resources; contributing to the social and economic development of local communities; and mobilizing financial resources to support studies and activities in order to improve the dissemination of scientific understanding of the wetlands of Benin.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

BEES has undertaken several projects to support the social well-being and integrated sustainable development of communities, including:

- The preservation and promotion of waterbirds and their habitats at Ramsar site No.1018;
- Support for local development and protection of the environment in the Lac Nokoué region, through ecotourism;
- Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation into the development planning of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and
- Corporate social and environmental responsibility in Benin in a time of climate change.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

From 10–14 February 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya, TUNZA of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), brought together over 300 young persons from 100 countries (with Benin represented by BEES) in order to exchange information and to network on the theme "Youth for sustainable development". BEES played an active part in defining the contribution of Benin throughout the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). As a result, the organization formed part of the Beninese delegation to COP 21, which was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015. It also attended COP 22, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, where it defended the position of Africa alongside other delegations. BEES has also been accredited by the Green Climate Fund since October 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led to the establishment in 2014 of a platform of NGOs networks working on environmental issues (ProEnvironment), chaired by BEES. Cooperation between ProEnvironment and UNDP made it possible to organize the Third West African Organic Agriculture Conference on "Institutionalizing ecological and organic agriculture in West Africa in the context of climate change", held from 26 to 29 August 2014.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

BEES has supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Benin, including Goal 7, through the "100 million trees" initiative of the Environment Online programme, under which 60 hectares of mangrove forest in Benin have been restored. Also in the context of achieving Goal 7, BEES has led advocacy efforts for the effective integration of ecosystem-based adaption into the policies and programmes of ECOWAS countries.

4. Carré géo et environnement

Special, 2013

Introduction

Created in 2004 by students of the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon and incorporated in 2009, Carré géo et environnement is an environmental organization that works on climate change issues. Its mission is to contribute towards better understanding and effective prevention of phenomena that have an impact on the fundamental equilibrium of the planet.

Aims and purposes of the organization

More specifically, Carré géo et environnement conducts activities at the local, national and international levels with the aim of contributing towards greater awareness of climate change when identifying and addressing development challenges.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In May 2013, the organization contributed to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the drafting of Sustainable Development Goal 13. The organization worked on drafting the climate-related recommendation as part of the post-2015 national consultations that took place in Cameroon.

In 2015, it contributed to the preparations for and success of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), including by organizing a training workshop from 2 to 4 September for elected officials in Douala on local ownership of Cameroon's intended nationally determined contribution. The organization also participated in developing recommendations from African civil society that were presented to French elected officials at a meeting held on 17 April 2015 at the French National Assembly. Carré géo et environnement took part in promoting COP 21, recommending that it serve as an opportunity to deepen discussions on the concept of climate refugees, particularly at international civil society meetings held on 13 and 14 June 2015 and from 2 to 4 October in France. Furthermore, from 30 November to 12 December 2015, the organization set up and ran a booth in the green zone at COP 21. At COP 22, it set up two booths (one in the blue zone and one in the green zone), where it presented global warming solutions to the public, and it also organized a side event entitled "Mitigating the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations and eliminating racial discrimination in projects and programmes related to renewable energy in Africa".

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Carré géo et environnement has participated in the following meetings:

- A national workshop on the national consultations regarding the post-2015 development agenda in Cameroon, entitled "The Future We Want", Yaoundé, Cameroon, 28 and 29 April 2013;
- The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Warsaw, Poland, 30 November to 13 December 2013;
- The Bonn Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany, 19 to 23 October 2015;
- The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris, France, 30 November to 12 December 2015;
- The Bonn Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany, 16 to 26 May 2016;
- The Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 6 and 7 October 2016; and
- The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakech, Morocco, 7 to 18 November 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No contribution was specified.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2013, in furtherance of Goal 13, Carré géo et environnement began to advocate for climate change to be mainstreamed into the community development plans of Cameroon. The purpose was to mainstream climate constraints into development policies. This led to the drafting of a publication used as a guide for incorporating climate issues in community development plans. In accordance with Goal 7, the organization has been carrying out activities since May 2014 for the adoption and implementation of a specific law on renewable energy in Cameroon.

These efforts aim to substantially increase renewable energy in Cameroon. In November 2014 this led to the adoption of a preliminary draft law on the promotion and development of renewable energy in Cameroon which has been used as a reference for the preparation of Cameroon's intended nationally determined contribution. This work is also relevant to Goal 8, as local community involvement in disseminating renewable energy would curb youth unemployment and poverty in Cameroon.

5. Centre africain de recherche industrielle

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Centre africain de recherche industrielle (CARI) is a learned society specialized in the application of science and technology to development issues. Its mission is to promote scientific and doctrinal thought in order to inform and guide the actions of development agents towards progress. The findings of research conducted by the Centre may be read in both scientific publications and those intended for anyone concerned with development problems.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of CARI is to guide the actions of development agents towards progress. The purpose is development through the implementation of healthy development projects. The main activity is research and the publication of research findings. Other cross-cutting activities include training and capacity-building.

Significant changes in the organization

The Centre africain de recherche industrielle became the Centre africain de recherche interdisciplinaire, retaining the same abbreviation CARI. The Centre has expanded its research areas beyond industry to include social, political and economic issues; the emergence of environmental issues; climate change; and sustainable development issues. Through this report, the Centre requests reclassification to general status owing to its many contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

CARI has contributed through the following activities:

- Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (Human Rights Council);
- The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation through the Human Rights Council;
- Written communication on the theme "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, 11–15 April 2016, New York, United States;
- Written communication on the theme "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world" at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development in 2016;

- Study on financing investment for sustainable development, commissioned by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
- The management of the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;
- Replies to the questionnaire on critical milestones towards a coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level;
- Interaction between civil society and multilateral institutions;
- Contemporary forms of debt bondage, submitted to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (Human Rights Council);
- Written communication at the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration under the sub-item entitled "Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: leadership, actions and means: Understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"; and
- Written communication at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Social Development on the theme "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all".

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 14 to 24 March 2016, on the theme "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development".

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No activities were specified.

6. Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles

Special, 2009

Introduction

The Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles (CNIDFF) was founded in 1972 at the initiative of the French State.

Aims and purposes of the organization

CNIDFF is an essential intermediary for action by Government authorities regarding access to rights for women in combating sexist discrimination and promoting equality between women and men.

Significant changes in the organization

The Centre adopted new statutes in June 2016 and became the Fédération nationale des Centres d'information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2013, the NGO organized conferences on gender, precariousness and solidarity, for the network of Women's and Families' Rights Information Centres. The issue of the women's precariousness provided an opportunity to analyse the solidarity actions provided by the Government, associations and women themselves. It organized a seminar as part of a European project called Stop V.i.E.W (Stop Violence against Elderly Women). The objective was to raise public awareness of violence against older women. It brought together six countries: Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Slovenia and France.

CNIDFF organized a press conference for six national organizations working in the field of violence against women. The aim was to denounce and raise awareness of the specific forms of violence experienced by migrant women: sexual mutilation, polygamy, forced marriage, honour crimes and prostitution.

In 2014, the NGO signed seven commitments supporting female entrepreneurship, in order to publicize the network of Women's and Families' Rights Information Centres as resource centres for women facing barriers to employment or business creation. It hosted foreign delegations on combating violence against women (Paraguay, Morocco and the Central African Republic); on the evolution of women's rights (Qatar); and on women's advancement and gender promotion (Burkina Faso and Tunisia).

In 2015, the organization held seminars on gender equality in the workplace and parenting support. It has created new communication tools under the plan to combat harassment, violence and sexual abuse adopted by the French Ministry of Defence; on equal rights for men and women in France; on access to rights for newly arrived women; and on promotion and support for employment and occupational equality. It hosted a delegation from China (Guangzhou), the Association for the Defence of the Rights of Tanzanian Women and a delegation from the Office of the President of the Gabonese Republic. Lastly, it conducted a hearing on the assessment of the fourth interministerial programme for combating violence against women (2014–2016).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

CNIDFF has participated in the following meetings:

The fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The organization attended the following meetings: Commission on the Status of Women: sexuality and education; women and extremism in the name of God; and unlimited potential: business partners for gender equality, organized by Women's Empowerment Principles; violence against women and girls online; gender inequality and climate change: how to tackle a double injustice; and results of the Commission on the Status of Women;

The sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which it presented the Centre's commitments in the area of gender-based violence in the presence of the Minister of Families and Women's Rights and participated

in the event organized by "Regards de femmes" on birth registration: a prerequisite for women's empowerment, and in "Refugees and displaced people, victims of terrorist groups: women and girls exposed to a continuum of sexual violence and exploitation".

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

CNIDFF supports the Millennium Development Goals through awareness-raising, mobilization and the promotion of gender equality across all areas involving the network of Women's and Families' Rights Information Centres: access to rights; combating violence against women; employment and business generation; family life and parenthood; health; and education and citizenship. In this context, public requests for information (especially from women) are constantly increasing: there were 918,882 such requests in 2013, compared with 940,291 in 2016. The number of women victims of violence receiving shelter has also increased from 48,251 in 2013 to 60,167 in 2016.

7. Centres d'accueil de l'espoir

Special, 2009

Introduction

Centres d'accueil de l'espoir has been operating for 27 years and was the first association in Cameroon to be granted NGO status on 8 July 2003. It was granted status as a recognized public utility association on 23 March 2006 and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on 7 August 2009. The organization's main areas of work are the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, the promotion of family planning, mentoring for orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children, and the eradication of poverty.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The association aims to provide upstream mentoring, social reintegration and socio-professional integration for orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children; to proactively educate and raise the awareness of vulnerable populations in poor communities about the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and opportunistic diseases linked to HIV/AIDS; to make family planning accessible; and, since 2012, to promote the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Its operational objectives are focused on six key areas: mentoring orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children in the temporary accommodation centre in Efoulan, in host families and in their families of origin; ensuring the social reintegration and socio-professional integration of orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children; making family planning accessible in order to address poverty; engaging poor communities in order to prevent sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and opportunistic diseases; preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and ensuring the socioeconomic empowerment of orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children and their families.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association is regularly invited to share its experience in meetings organized by the Government. For instance, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation Department), the association took part in the inaugural meeting on the activities of the collaborative platform between the Ministry and civil society on 27 February 2017. Its aims included effectively monitoring the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, and facilitating the involvement and actions of associations in their role as consultative members of the international community, according to the themes developed.

In addition, the association generally accepts all invitations from United Nations agencies in Cameroon in order to share experiences and make other contributions. For example, it took part as an observer in the first technical consultation on the topic of mobilizing NGOs to accelerate the response to the AIDS epidemic, which was organized by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) held on 12 August 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The association cooperates extensively with United Nations bodies and with UNAIDS, in particular through the Ministry of Health. The voluntary HIV testing that is routinely offered to target populations was introduced by the Ministry of Health on the instructions of the World Health Organization and is an effective means of reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 1, the association each year provides care to 50 orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children, it provides training in agroforestry work, and it provides integration assistance to 12 young orphans who have become the heads of their households at a very young age and to other vulnerable children. This is both to empower them and to produce useful resources for poor and vulnerable populations. With regard to Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6, the association contributes through education and awareness-raising about sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and other opportunistic diseases related to HIV/AIDS, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and the promotion of family planning. Since 4 February 2016, the association has been offering free and voluntary HIV/AIDS testing as part of its health campaigns in order to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence effectively. People diagnosed as HIV-positive are directed to, and advised to remain in, care units in the health districts with which the organization has signed cooperation agreements.

In addition, the association has created the Centre for the Promotion of Socioeconomic Activities. The NGO has established a number of partnerships with renowned schools that were created by the Government for agroforestry work, such as the Practical School of Agricultural in Binguela.

8. Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies was established in 1948 and comprises more than 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that liaise with and share information about the United Nations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Committee aims to disseminate information on the views and work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to convey the needs of populations and to offer suggestions to the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Committee has contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways:

- A debate on violence against women and children at the Paris bar association, France, 21 November 2013;
- An open letter to President Obama to encourage the United States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, March 2014;
- A letter to the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic on 2 May 2014, offering the Committee's help to protect women and children threatened by conflict and intervention; and to the Secretary of State for Cooperation and the President of France, seeking France's commitment to avoiding a genocide in the Central African Republic;
- An open letter to the agencies to oppose the registration of a surrogacy that was authorized abroad with the civil registry, 30 June 2015;
- A call for applications from experienced women to participate in peacekeeping missions in 2015;
- An email to the president of the senatorial friendship group between France and the countries of the Horn of Africa, and to the National Assembly friendship group between France and Eritrea, drawing their attention to the situation in Eritrea, 24 May 2016;
- A conference on the Convention of 4 July 2016 between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the High Council of French Notariat regarding children with no legal identity, Maison de l'Europe, Paris, November 2016.

Participations in meetings of the United Nations

The Committee has participated in the following meetings:

- United Nations day in Brussels, Belgium, at the invitation of the Regional United Nations Information Centre for Western Europe, 20 October 2013;

- A colloquium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and celebrations for the seventieth anniversary of the French Association for the United Nations, 24 October 2015;

- The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Notaries (UINL) on the implementation of guidelines for land tenures, 8 January 2016; and

- The International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the role of women in fighting poverty, 29 June 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Committee participated in the commemorations held by UNESCO to mark 60 years of friendship between France and Japan on 16 May 2014, and the Semaines Sociales de France at UNESCO, Porte de la Villette, Paris, held from 2 to 4 October 2015 and on 19 and 20 November 2016. It also participated in the international conference on the identification of people, held jointly by the World Bank and the High Council of French Notariat on 21 September 2016.

The Committee invited the following United Nations representatives to participate in its General Assemblies: General Jean Cot, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), on 20 June 2013; Cyril Ritchie, the re-elected President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, and Ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis, former Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, on 19 June 2014; and General Amine Cisse, United Nations Special Representative, in June 2015.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Committee's initiatives included:

- Producing a report on the suspension of work on the "Great Green Wall" project for security reasons, except in the Senegalese section where progress was being made, February 2013;

- Celebrating International Women's Day at the bar association, 8 March 2013;

- Participating in the opening ceremony of the Francophone Games in Nice, France, 7 September 2013;

- Awarding 10 citizenship and health prizes during the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, at the French Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music, 14 December 2015;

- Sharing with NGOs 60 lectures on the state of the world at the Géopolitiques de Nantes, which were organized by the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs and closed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, from 30 September to 1 October 2016; and

- Participating in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris, from 30 November to 12 December 2015.

9. Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme

Special, 2009

Introduction

The Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme has 30 European member countries, several of which are in Eastern Europe, and 5 non-European member countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Israel, Kazakhstan and United States.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation groups together European and international associations that are concerned about sectarian organizations that tend to exert influence over individuals and whose practices are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and national and international legislation. Its goals are to inform individuals, alert Governments and represent victims before international bodies. It serves as an information network.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Federation has representatives in Vienna, Geneva and New York. The organization participates in all the sessions to which it has access, in particular those on the protection of children and older persons, education, women's rights and economic and social rights.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Federation attended all the sessions of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015. It also participated in the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations on 24 October 2015, and in the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in New York from 14 to 16 July 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Federation issued statements at the sessions of the Commission for Social Development in 2015, 2016 and 2017: E/CN.5/2015/NGO/6, E/CN.5/2016/NGO/61 and E/CN.5/2017/NGO/15. In the same years, it also issued statements at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women: E/CN.6/2015/NGO/224, E/CN.6/2016/NGO/168 and E/CN.6/2017/NGO/16.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Every year, the Federation organizes a conference in one of its member countries. The latest were held in Bulgaria and Belgium. The Federation duly promotes the values of the United Nations and includes a section on the work of the United Nations in its activity reports.

The Federation's activities are cross-cutting and address many objectives of the United Nations. They address the rights of children, women and older persons,

all of whom could be affected by sectarian influence. In that vein, it recently added radicalization as an area of research.

10. Femmes autochtones du Québec

Special, 2009

Introduction

Femmes autochtones du Québec was created in 1968 for the purpose of representing and defending the interests of indigenous women, their families and their communities throughout Quebec, Canada.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization supports the efforts of indigenous women to improve their living conditions by promoting non-violence, justice, equal rights and health. It also supports women in their community involvement.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributed to the promotion and dissemination of a booklet on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in English and French. Furthermore, in 2014, one of the organization's representatives received training in Geneva, Switzerland on sexual health and reproductive rights.

The organization has participated in many national activities related to the work of the United Nations, for example the Peoples' Social Forum in Ottawa, 21–24 August 2015; the seventh international conference on francophone feminist research in Montreal, 24–28 August 2015; and the World Social Forum in Montreal, 9–14 August 2016.

Representatives of Femmes autochtones du Québec travelled to Fribourg, Switzerland, to present a document prepared by the organization at a conference of the DIALOG network from 23 to 29 March 2015, on the situation of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. It also organized gatherings for the families of missing and murdered indigenous women, for example in Québec from 23 to 26 April 2015 and from 27 to 30 October 2016. In addition, from 19 to 22 October 2016, the organization held a gathering for indigenous women who had denounced the violence suffered at the hands of the police.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, 20–31 May 2013, 12–23 May 2014 and 9–13 May 2016, respectively. It also participated in the international expert group meeting on the theme "Sexual health and reproductive rights: articles 21, 22 (1), 23 and 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", held in New York from 15 to 17 January 2014. In addition, it took part in the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 9–13 March 2015 and 14–24 March 2016, respectively; and in the global leadership school in New York, 20–25 April 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization attended the eighth Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas in Guatemala from 16 to 20 November 2015. It participated in various meetings with indigenous women of the Americas (the Continental Network of Indigenous Women), for example in New York from 21 to 23 September 2014. Finally, the organization is part of two working groups dealing with the activities of the United Nations, one of which is in French and the other in English, known as the coalitions on the rights of indigenous peoples. The two coalitions plan at least four meetings each year.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 3, the organization provided training on the leadership of indigenous women and governance to women from the 10 indigenous nations that were members of the organization, from July to November 2016. To that end, Femmes autochtones du Québec travelled to communities to ensure that all women had access to this training. The organization also participated in several conferences promoting Goal 3. For example, the organization gave a speech on the day for equality between women and men in Ottawa on 15 May 2014. It also takes part in the organizing committee of the 12 days of action against violence, from 25 November to 6 December every year (2013–2016). The organization participates annually in the Global Women's March and organizes events for International Women's Day on 8 March and for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

From 6 to 8 December, the organization participated in a national gathering for midwives, in line with Goal 5. On 1 December 2014, the organization held a conference within the framework of World AIDS Day, in support of Goal 6. The organization participated in a Canada-wide climate march on 29 November 2014, in line with Goal 7.

11. Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche (FOREM) is an Algerian nationwide organization. It contributes to poverty alleviation in the most deprived segments of society.

Aims and purposes of the organization

FOREM bases its actions on three objectives: humanitarian and solidarity activities, including the alleviation of suffering among victims of terror-related violence, particularly women and children; preventive action, particularly against HIV/AIDS, cancer, drug addiction, diabetes, malnutrition, and environmental pollution, through education and awareness-raising; and information, training and research activities, working at the national level on a regular, almost daily basis.

Significant changes in the organization

The Extraordinary General Assembly that was convened in 2012 indicated that the actions of FOREM should focus on most impoverished regions: Hauts Plateaux and the Sahara.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

FOREM has developed programmes following the guidelines established by the United Nations:

- Poverty eradication: a national aid programme for orphans which provides 8,000 children with $360 per year for their educational needs; assistance for 5,000 poor families (including in Adrar, Relizane, Tissemsilt, Blida, Zemmouri, Biskra, Aurès and Skikda): food baskets and clothes; distribution of Braille and mathematical tablets and canes to visually impaired children (in Algiers, Adrar, Tissemsilt, Tiaret, Ghardaïa, El Oued, Biskra, Djelfa and Laghouat); performance of fistulas for patients in Adrar with renal insufficiency to allow them to undergo dialysis treatment; 2,000 consultations and 800 surgical operations for eye diseases through the establishment of a mobile ophthalmological clinic;

- Universal primary education: the 25 centres offer literacy classes in Arabic for illiterate women and teach trades to children who have been excluded from school. FOREM has a child rights observatory which has worked on several cases: school dropouts, violence in schools, school inclusion for children with disabilities, violence and disappearances. It has put forward proposals to the Government for the prevention of kidnapping using an "abduction alert" plan, which was officially implemented in the country on 20 November 2016;

- Gender equality and the empowerment of women: FOREM gives special attention to rural women by organizing training workshops for them. This training is managed in collaboration with the department for vocational training and contributes to the empowerment of women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education on 31 January 2015 in Algiers. FOREM also held discussions with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health on 28 April 2016 in Algiers.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

FOREM set up a botanical conservatory and seed bank in Adrar, southern Algeria, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2015–2016. It has also participated in UNICEF activities in Algiers.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

In order to combat child mortality, FOREM runs a health education programme for children and mothers every year, encouraging breastfeeding and combating nutritional imbalances, including child obesity. At the national level, it held a conference on the topic of paediatric cardiology.

FOREM continues its communication activities aimed at women of reproductive age with a view to reducing the risk of maternal mortality and improving maternal health. Several workshops have been organized by a unit of

specialized midwives. FOREM has also sent teams of gynaecologists to the provinces of Tissemsilt, Adrar and Ghardaïa to offer consultations and to perform surgical operations.

FOREM carries out awareness-raising activities to combat HIV/AIDS in several high schools, training centres and national universities, throughout the country and in its centres. In addition, training sessions have been provided for the benefit of imams, and have been highly successful.

The organization has established several other programmes, including against spousal abuse, domestic violence, violence in stadiums and schools, and drug abuse, with visits to 26 provinces; for a culture of peace with students; and conferences on combating radicalization.

12. Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (FERDI) is a French think tank on international development. Its work and influence cover the areas of development effectiveness, sustainable development and global governance. In particular, FERDI analyses questions relating to national and international funding for development, regional integration, climate change, migration, human capital, least developed countries, and the Sustainable Development Goals. FERDI also develops innovative development indicators, and recently put an "observatory of sustainable competitiveness" data platform online to describe and measure the competitiveness of African countries. FERDI covers francophone African countries and least developed countries in particular.

Aims and purposes of the organization

FERDI aims to use the results of rigorous research to shape development policies. It therefore reaches out to French institutions for regional and international development (United Nations institutions, the African Development Bank, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the European Commission and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development, or French Development Agency). By circulating documents among them and participating in various forums, FERDI uses its messages to influence major debates on development.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

FERDI has been working with the United Nations for several years on the least developed countries, particularly regarding their characterization and graduation. It has also contributed to discussions on the definition of the economic vulnerability index and has built retrospective data for this index for the United Nations. Furthermore, the idea put forward by FERDI for the allocation of assistance to the most vulnerable countries has been translated into General Assembly resolution 67/221, paragraph 23. The adoption of this resolution is the

result of several discussions at the highest level. FERDI also contributes to the changes in Aid for Trade programme through various publications and participation in working sessions with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the other institutions involved.

On the topic of climate change, FERDI contributes to discussions through its participation in the Conference of the Parties, the two most recent being COP 21 and COP 22. On these occasions, FERDI has presented the publication "Towards a Workable and Effective Climate Regime" and argued that priority should be given to the most vulnerable countries in the allocation of adaptation funds.

With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, FERDI focuses partly on specific thematic areas (education, health, mobilization of domestic resources) and partly on performance measurement indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in the following meetings:

- Midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, Antalya, Turkey, 27 to 29 May 2016. FERDI co-organized three parallel events;
- Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13 to 16 July 2015. FERDI organized a parallel event on the topic of vulnerabilities;
- Conference of the Parties (COP 22), United Nations Climate Change Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco, 10 to 15 November 2016. FERDI organized three parallel events;
- Conference of the Parties (COP 21), United Nations Climate Change Conference, Paris, France, 30 November to 12 December 2015. FERDI organized three parallel events; and
- The fourteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Nairobi, Kenya, 17 to 22 July 2016, during which FERDI took part in a panel discussion.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The main bodies that FERDI collaborates with are:

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, both on questions relating to least developed countries;
- The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations regarding least developed countries and questions related to financing for development; and
- WTO for work on Aid for Trade.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

FERDI has focused its work on performance measurements for the Millennium Development Goals and for the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly with a new method for taking into account the initial situation of countries as they work

towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of FERDI on education, health and demographics will also contribute to debates on the subject.

13. Fondation Surgir

Special, 2005

Introduction

Founded in June 2001, Fondation Surgir operates solely in the public interest.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Fondation Surgir seeks to defend and assist girls, as well as women and their children, who are victims of any form of physical, psychological, sexual or social violence. Its programmes take place in Switzerland and in the Middle East.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Foundation was not able to participate as much as it would have liked in the work of the Economic and Social Council during the reporting period because it focused, in line with its objective of combating violence against women, on the development of its programmes abroad. A proposal to organize a panel at the start of the 2017 academic year is currently being studied with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Foundation participated in the following meetings:

- Working group of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on discrimination against women, June 2013;
- Twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, June 2014. The Foundation participated in two panels: "Lebanon religious leaders and civil society join to address violence against women and girls" and "The role of the UN in combating caste-based violence and discrimination";
- Geneva Peace Talks 2015, "It's Time for Peace!", organized by Interpeace, the United Nations and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, September 2015;
- "Healing the wounds of war: Rebuilding nations and generations with the power of forgiveness", organized by Youth with a Mission, November 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization's initiatives include the following:

- A conference on "Women in societies in transition: Challenges and priorities" to give a voice to female activists in Northern Africa and the Middle East, to strengthen their fight through solidarity and to enrich knowledge, Amman (Jordan), March 2013. The countries represented were Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq,

Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen;

- Organization of a press conference entitled "Women in War" with Yazidi women from Iraq and Syria who fled their country after finding themselves at the heart of the conflict in some cases, or arrested by the Syrian regime in others, Geneva (Switzerland), January 2015;

- A conference on "Crimes committed in the name of honour in Europe" at the Geneva International Conference Centre (Switzerland), under the patronage of the city and canton of Geneva and with the participation of European experts on the subject from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom in March 2015. One hundred and forty professionals from the health, police, social and judicial sectors, representatives of the cantonal and federal authorities, of the United Nations, and of women's rights organizations participated in the conference;

- The filming of a documentary in Jordan entitled "Le cercle infernal des réfugiées syriennes" which depicts the plight of Syrians fleeing their country, overburdened Syrian refugee camps, trafficking in human beings and the state of permanent insecurity, March 2016. Two public film screenings followed by discussions were organized in Geneva and Pully, Switzerland;

- Legal, social and psychological support for Syrian refugees in Jordan, in partnership with Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J) 2015–2016;

- Counselling centre for women victims of violence in partnership with SAWA, State of Palestine, 2013–2016; and

- Rehabilitation of women imprisoned for their protection from honour crimes, in partnership with SIGI/J, Jordan, 2013–2014.

14. Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale

Special, 2009

Introduction

Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale is a training organization for human rights defenders and all persons working on the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the world. The organization offers courses in Geneva and in other regions of Switzerland.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's objectives are: to achieve rights, to implement United Nations recommendations and to teach others about United Nations mechanisms, procedures and programmes. The courses focus on the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, special procedures and the universal periodic review, as well as treaty bodies and national and regional mechanisms. The main beneficiaries are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national institutions and diplomats.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During this period, the organization provided inter alia:

- Eleven courses in Geneva (2 to 3 weeks long) during sessions of the Human Rights Council (198 human rights defenders were trained);
- Twelve expert seminars on: religious freedom, enforced disappearances (2), business and human rights (4), the Vienna Conference, international criminal law, the death penalty and indigenous peoples (2);
- Twelve courses held during the universal periodic review; and
- A course for diplomats from Guinea.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the period in question, the organization trained 111 interns (43 per cent of whom were from regions outside of Geneva) who participated in all sessions of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as sessions of treaty bodies and consultations with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As a training organization, Genève pour les droits de l'homme does not take the floor, but provides guidance and advice to NGOs and diplomats alike.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization cooperates closely with OHCHR. It gave four courses on OHCHR for national institutions and four courses for OHCHR minority fellows. Special procedures mandate-holders and treaty body members were invited as seminar experts. The organization participates actively in the Human Rights Council working group on accessibility for persons with disabilities. The courses in other countries are prepared with the relevant branches of OHCHR and of the United Nations Development Programme.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

For the organization, the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of human rights and thus of all its courses.

15. Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding is a Swiss non-governmental organization (NGO) with local branches in Morocco and Tunisia which specializes in mediation, dialogue and peacebuilding in Northern Africa.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Institute works to consolidate peace at the individual, societal and international levels; to promote the non-violent transformation of conflict; to strengthen a conflict-sensitive approach to cooperation and development projects; to prevent violence; to facilitate and assist reconciliation processes after violence and war; and to promote and develop capacities in terms of mediation, negotiation and dialogue. The Institute pursues these non-profit objectives.

Significant changes in the organization

After 10 years of operation, the organization changed its strategy and its name: in 2016, the Institute became "ae-Centre", with the explicit intention of focusing its

resources in a more targeted way, both thematically and regionally, in Northern Africa. Since 2015, its projects have been supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2016, the Institute became a member of the umbrella association FEDEVACO, which brings together development NGOs in the Vaud region and thus ensures high-quality development projects and the responsible use of public funding for development cooperation.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization promotes the three (economic, social and environmental) dimensions of sustainable development.

Current projects are listed below:

- Support for a social dialogue process on tensions in the Gafsa mining basin in Tunisia since 2016;

- Organization since 2007 of the International Academy and Forum on Peace Mediation and Dialogue. Every year, the event brings together about 30 experts working in our areas of expertise; and

- A project for the institutionalization and promotion of mediation in Morocco with a view to transforming mining conflicts, since 2014.

Completed projects are listed below:

- The training of about 100 Swiss mediators through the organization of a certificate of advanced studies accredited by the University of Basel, Geneva, Switzerland, 2007–2015;

- Support for a dialogue on Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, with public and private representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, 2011–2016;

- Development of a master's degree in peace studies in cooperation with the universities of Basel (Switzerland), Belgrade (Serbia), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Zagreb (Croatia), 2011–2015;

- Training of defence ministry representatives on peacebuilding in the Maghreb and the Sahel, in 2016; and

- Organization of the International Peacebuilders' Forum, in cooperation with Cases – Initiatives of Change, 2014 and 2015.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Institute organized a round table discussion on the theme "Dialogue and mediation in North Africa: insights from the field" during Geneva Peace Week 2016 in Geneva on 7 November 2016. It actively participated in the 2016 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in Geneva, from 14 to 16 November 2016. It participated in the bi-annual meeting of Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with NGOs in Geneva on 25 February 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Institute communicated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Lebanon regarding future cooperation projects. It provided assistance to identify a Swiss expert for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to participate

as "young talent" during the "Rendez-vous for the Euro-Arab Dialogue" on preventing extremism in 2016.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Institute is certified by EduQua, a leading Swiss certification body for training institutions. Through its various training programmes, the organization contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 4. In all its activities, it seeks to ensure gender equality and the advancement of women, thus contributing to Goal 5. For example, the dialogue held in Morocco has created the possibility for women's cooperation.

Projects concerning the mining conflicts in Morocco and Tunisia not only allow for the preservation and creation of workplaces, but also for economic growth through improved functioning of an industry that is essential for the economy, thus contributing to Goal 8.

The organization's projects allow for the reduction of tensions and the transformation of sometimes violent conflicts between different actors in the societies concerned. Promoting mediation provides a new, alternative approach to traditional justice. This also makes it possible to shift some of the burden away from the courts, thereby contributing to the Goal 16.

United Nations E/C.2/2018/2/Add.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2018 regular session
29 January–7 February and 21 February 2018

Quadrennial reports for the period 2013–2016 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa "KAF"	2
2.	Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale	3
3.	Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali "ASAA EM Jigiya Ton"	5
4.	Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques	6
5.	Collectif des femmes africaines du Hainaut	7
6.	International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples	9
7.	International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education	10
8.	Les rencontres du Mont-Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale	12
9.	Organisation de défense de l'environnement au Burundi	13
10.	Organisation des laics engagés du Sacré-Cœur pour le développement de Kimbondo	15
11.	Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale	16
12.	Regards de femmes	17
13.	Reporters sans frontières international	19
14.	Rescue and Hope	21
15.	Villes de France	23
16.	Yalen	24

* Applications submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa "KAF"

Special, 2013

Introduction

Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa "KAF" is a non-governmental organization that has enjoyed special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2013. The organization's headquarters are in South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Aims and purposes of the organization

KAF aims to contribute to the fight against torture, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and other similar serious diseases; to protect the environment and human rights; and to promote democracy and human rights. The sectors of activity in which the organization is involved include health, sustainable development, education, direct assistance to the victims of crimes against humanity, direct medical assistance to indigent persons and lobbying at the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

KAF participated in sessions of the Human Rights Council and other special procedures, such as the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2014.

The organization also took part in the sixty-ninth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), held in Geneva from 18 May to 5 June 2015. The session was dedicated to the consideration of the reports submitted by eight countries (including Eritrea, Ethiopia and Ghana) on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Since obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, KAF has been very active at the United Nations.

It has had permanent representation at United Nations Headquarters in New York as well as at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna since 2013. Every year, the organization has participated in the work of the Human Rights Council and other special procedures, including the thirtieth and thirty-third regular sessions of the Council, held in Geneva from 14 September to 2 October 2015 and 13 to 30 September 2016 respectively. KAF made it possible for two members of the recently formed National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in the thirtieth session and learn about the Council's functioning.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

KAF participated in the meeting of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Geneva on 25 February 2016. The goal of the meeting was to set out the priorities of the United

Nations for 2016 and to discuss how the participation of NGOs could be further strengthened.

Through a project on recognition of the status of victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity in South Kivu and the psychological rehabilitation of victims from the town of Bukavu and the territory of Kabare, supported by the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims, Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa continued to provide physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support to the victims of sexual violence, and to document the psychological harm that they have suffered.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

KAF has taken initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals through field activities geared towards rehabilitating the victims of war crimes, improving hospital management and building a new hospital centre, educating the population (especially young people aged 16 to 25 and women) about democratic elections, providing medical assistance to prisoners and victims of torture, and promoting reforestation. With regard to the hospital, the topics and activities affected by the project include employment for male and female nurses, health (prevention, access to primary health care, and reproductive health), sustainable development (use of environmentally friendly building materials), vocational training, the environment (hospital waste management) and the planting of trees around the hospital. At the hospital, KAF has treated more than 6,000 people, including more than 700 pregnant women and 3,000 children. Through all these activities, the organization has contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15.

2. Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale was established in 1972 in response to an educational and sociocultural crisis of which women and young people were the primary victims. Its activities extend throughout Senegal and affect other African countries. It was recognized as an NGO in 1982.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the organization is to contribute to sustainable human development through education and comprehensive civic training for social change. Its goals are supporting the integration and reintegration of young people and women, whether disadvantaged or not, into active life; supporting the self-help initiatives of its members to achieve active and responsible participation in their communities' development efforts, with a view to laying the foundations for a solidarity-based economy; promoting and developing communication tools to publicize the organization's ideals and achieve its goals as well as those of its partners; and promoting exchange, cooperation and integration between nations and communities, as well as self-reinforcement while respecting sociocultural differences and realities. Its main activities are holistic education for social change; economic and social self-help and training; and social and civic mobilization.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association has helped to elaborate a comprehensive and inclusive education policy through the Commission for the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The association participated in the following meetings:

- The celebration of the sixty-sixth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Dakar on 10 December 2014.
- The Sixty-sixth Annual United Nations Department of Public Information NGO Conference on the theme "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together", held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2016.
- The United Nations International Conference in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace, held in Geneva on 29 and 30 June 2016.
- The high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016.
- The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York.

In addition, the association was elected as a member of the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No information was provided.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The following initiatives were taken:

- Organization of a seminar/workshop on Sustainable Development Goal 1, in Thies, Senegal, on 8 and 9 September 2015.
- Participation in the development and dissemination of the NGO environmental strategy for World Environment Day in France, which contributed to the achievement of Goals 13, 14 and 15.
- Participation in the International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem in Dakar in February 2016, in relation to Goal 16.
- Organization of World AIDS Day events on 1 June each year from 2013 to 2016 in Dakar, Thiès and Rufisque, Senegal (Goal 3).
- Participation in a youth forum on the theme "Marriage and the fight against AIDS" held in Tambacounda, Senegal (Goal 3).
- Participation in a youth forum on the theme "Youth and the environment" held in Mbour, Senegal (Goal 3).

- Participation in a workshop of experts tasked with preparing a teacher-training module for primary school teacher-training colleges (Goal 4).
- Observance of World Water Day, on 22 March 2015 and 2016 (Goal 5).
- Participation in an international conference of cities, held in Dakar in February 2016, with a view to achieving Goal 11.
- Observance of the Day of the African Child, on 16 June each year from 2013 to 2016 in Dakar (Goal 5).
- Observance of International Women's Day on 8 March each year in eight parts of the country (Goal 5).

3. Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali "ASAA/EM Jigiya Ton"

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali "ASAA/EM Jigiya Ton" is a multilateral non-governmental development organization that helps to eradicate poverty and to reduce inequality and exclusion. The association helps countries to formulate policies, develop leadership and partnership skills, build institutional capacity and share solutions to problems related to the following issues: sustainable development; democratic governance; and climate and adaptation. In all its activities, the association encourages the protection of human rights and promotes the active participation of women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the organization are: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; promoting a culture of peace through equitable justice; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; providing high-quality education to children; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; improving maternal health; reducing infant mortality; and supporting the implementation of a global partnership for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Significant changes in the organization

Two major changes in the organization have been the accession of new members and the signature of a cooperation agreement with the organization Femmes en Danger, an NGO composed of women of the African diaspora living in France, most of whom are from the Central African Republic. The organization will work with Femmes en Danger on a major project whose objective is the care and reintegration of women victims of conflict.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association is exploring new aspects of the establishment and protection of human rights standards across a wide range of themes and issues. It provides legal and practical advice and undertakes empirical studies; organizes discussions and consultations on issues relating to the MDGs; and seeks to build partnerships on specific issues with a range of stakeholders in the social sphere to promote best practices. Its areas of activity include: the fight against discrimination; women and children; climate change and the environment; economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to health, housing, food and water; countering violence;

HIV/AIDS; country assessments and planning in the field of human rights; and human rights and business.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in many United Nations meetings since obtaining consultative status, including those of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization collaborates with the Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Mali.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The achievement of the organization's goals falls within the context of the achievement of the MDGs. To that end, the organization has worked and continues to work on conflict management in Mali and on combating violence against women. It also devotes attention to the following issues: the fight against discrimination; women and children; climate change and the environment; economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to health, housing, food and water; countering violence; HIV/AIDS; country assessments and planning in the field of human rights; and human rights and business.

4. Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques (CEDS) is a centre for the training of diplomats and decision makers, as well as a forum for research and practical expertise on international policy issues.

Objectives

The objective of the Centre is to contribute to the development of countries in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. It is a forum for research and discussion that focuses on two main areas: the international system (including the United Nations system) and development assistance.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The activities of CEDS are aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the United Nations system. Many seminars are devoted to this topic, such as the lectures organized at the École de guerre in December 2013, February 2014, April 2015 and February 2016, and the internal lectures offered every May and June at the Centre. In February 2014, February 2015 and January 2016, exercises focusing on negotiation in the context of United Nations institutions are led by experts who have performed leadership roles at the United Nations. Every year, the review published by the Centre, *Enjeux diplomatiques et stratégiques*, contains a section entitled "Vie

des Nations Unies" (Life of the United Nations). Research studies on United Nations peacekeeping operations and the reform of the Organization have been defended or published.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Centre participated in the annual meetings of the General Assembly from September to December each year from 2013 to 2016, the meetings of the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2015 and 2016, and the meetings of the Human Rights Council in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization develops courses and seminars with the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the General Assembly, the Security Council, OHCHR and the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The Centre participated in the expert meeting on climate change and human rights organized in Geneva by OHCHR and the signatories of the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action on 6 and 7 October 2016. It also participated in the fifty-third session of the Committee against Torture, held from 3 to 28 November 2014. In June 2016, the Centre organized and participated in two side events on the rights of minorities and indigenous people.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

From June 2013 to June 2014, the Centre contributed to the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 8 (global partnership for development). Twelve training sessions were conducted, covering such topics as diplomacy in the service of development, with a focus on Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The Centre has participated in the high-level political forum on sustainable development and has included in the curriculum for one of its courses the topic of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators. The relevant course, which was offered in 2015 and 2016, is also designed to provide guidance and recommendations to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, monitor progress towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and foster the development of coherent policies based on reliable scientific data and lessons learned from countries.

5. Collectif des femmes africaines du Hainaut

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Collectif des femmes Africaines du Hainaut is a group of immigrant women from sub-Saharan Africa; its main aims are to promote their involvement and participation in the development of their host country and countries of origin, to help them escape the isolation that accompanies migration, and to combat the racism and discrimination that they face. Thanks to its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the organization has been able to conduct advocacy initiatives with public authorities and build networks at the national and international levels.

Objectives

The organization aims to foster and promote the involvement of women in development through activities and advocacy measures aimed at strengthening gender and racial equality and the empowerment of women migrants.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, New York, 3–4 October 2013.
- Twenty-fifth regular session of the Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 7 March 2014, at which it held a side event.
- Twenty-seventh regular session of the Human Rights Council, at which it held a side event, 15 September 2014.
- Forum held by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in advance of the Beijing+20 Regional Review organized by ECE, Geneva, 3–5 November 2014.
- Fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 10–21 March 2014, 9–20 March 2015 and 13–24 March 2017, respectively. The organization submitted a written statement at the fifty-ninth session.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in several meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperates with the following bodies: OHCHR; the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, established by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States; the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Health Organization; the International Organization for Migration; and UN-Women.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization has conducted several field activities aimed at combating racism, promoting gender equality and empowering women:

- A mentorship project designed to promote access by migrant women to decision-making positions
- An anti-racism initiative focused on the concept of plural identity
- An African culture festival
- An international conference at the European Parliament on the intersection of international agendas on migrant women, organized in partnership with the UN-Women Liaison Office to the European Union in Brussels on 20 November 2014.

6. International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples

Special, 1953

Introduction

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples is a federation of groups and individuals working to promote understanding, dialogue and cooperation among races, peoples and cultural groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It provides training and information on matters related to human rights and advocacy in international forums and organizes meetings and seminars on topics related to its objectives.

Objectives

The federation's priorities are combating all forms of exclusion and racism and protecting the most vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, indigenous peoples, minorities and migrants.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has adopted a new name: United for Equity and Ending Racism/Unité(s pour l'Equité et la Fin du Racisme (UFER).

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Each year, at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UFER, alongside other NGOs, organizes a programme that gives girls and young women from different countries the opportunity to familiarize themselves in situ with the work of the Commission and to develop strategies for the implementation in their own countries of the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Commission. One of the organization's priorities is combating human trafficking. Panels on that topic were organized at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, and a seminar on the matter was held in Nepal in cooperation with local NGOs in 2014. UFER also presented a study entitled "Conseil des droits de l'homme — Convergences, divergences, et résistances" ("The Human Rights Council — Convergence, Divergence and Resistance") on the margins of the twenty-fourth session of the Council.

During the UFER General Assembly in 2015, the organization held a seminar on migration, refugees and human trafficking, during which participants were informed of the work of the United Nations in those areas. Through the UFER newsletter and website, members and associates are informed of the activities of the United Nations in various fields, including human rights, the rights of women and girls, the rights of indigenous peoples, racial discrimination and the environment.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

UFER has participated in the following meetings:

- Sessions of the Human Rights Council
- Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Some sessions of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council

- The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, New York, 22–23 September 2014

- The Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting, held by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2014

- Various briefings, consultations and commemorations

UFER has also co-signed of a number of oral and written statements.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No information provided.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

With a view to fulfilling Millennium Development Goal 2, UFER continues to implement its preschool education programme in Cambodia. The programme is designed to help mostly Vietnamese children from underprivileged backgrounds to better integrate into the Cambodian educational system and live peacefully alongside Khmer children. Since the programme's inception, other NGOs have opened schools in various villages and have benefited from the teacher training provided by members of UFER. A similar programme has been established in India.

7. International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education

Special, 1989

Introduction

The International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL) was established in 1985 by 40 political figures, education experts and parents of students. OIDEL has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. It also collaborates with the European Union and many international NGOs.

Objectives

The organization seeks to promote the right to education and freedom of education in accordance with the principles of article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

OIDEL focuses on the protection of human rights. It coordinates two NGO platforms: one on the right to education, comprising 35 NGOs; and another on human rights education, consisting of 53 members. OIDEL has worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, with whom it has held periodic meetings and on whose reports it has presented feedback during plenary sessions of the Human Rights Council. The organization has collaborated with the Working Group on the Right to Development during the Group's annual sessions on development criteria. It also organized two side events in collaboration with the

Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity in 2015 and 2016 and submitted documents to assist her in preparing her draft declaration on the right to international solidarity.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

OIDEL participated in all sessions of the Human Rights Council during the reporting period; the sessions of the Working Group on the Right to Development; meetings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2015; and the sixth session of the Forum on Minority Issues in 2013.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

OIDEL co-organized a round table on global citizenship with the Permanent Missions of Senegal and Mexico in the context of the Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative in 2013, as well as a seminar on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights with the Permanent Mission of Portugal and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in 2015. It also organized a side event with the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training on the anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training in 2015.

In 2016, the NGO Platform on the Right to Education presented a written document containing five recommendations for furthering human rights education in the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In 2013, OIDEL published a compilation of international instruments related to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. It also collaborated with UNESCO in drafting The Right to Education — Law and Policy Review Guidelines in 2014. In addition, on the basis of paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it published, in French and English, a freedom of education index that measures the role of civil society in advancing the right to education.

From 2013 to 2017, OIDEL participated in the Human Rights-Based Approach to Higher Education in the Maghreb (Approche Basée sur les Droits dans l'Enseignement Supérieur au Maghreb) project, developed in the context of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

OIDEL has taken an active part in the post-2015 process, in particular in the area of education, through the preparation in 2014 of a position paper on the role of the right to education in development objectives, which was distributed to all diplomatic missions. It also held an event and issued a publication in 2016 entitled "Education 2030: Le role de la société civile" (Education 2030: the role of civil society). Between 2013 and 2016, it held five training sessions in French and Spanish on the human-rights based approach and the post-2015 development framework through the Collège Universitaire Henry Dunant foundation, which were attended by more than 200 participants from Africa, Asia and Europe.

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9. Les rencontres du Mont Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale

Special, 2013

Introduction

As part of a global network and on every continent, Les rencontres du Mont-Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale promotes and develops social and solidarity economy.

Main and purposes of the organization

Since 2005, the organization's international network has been engaged in a pioneering mission as a think-and-do tank in three areas of action. The first area is bringing together social and solidarity economy leaders and actors to foster the sharing of good practices, discussion of the critical international challenges and the joint formulation of innovative solutions. To that end, it organizes a biennial forum and takes part in numerous national and international meetings. The second area of action is co-building sustainable and inclusive projects and initiatives. Recognition of social and solidarity economy actors also and above all through the promotion of its sustainable and inclusive initiatives and solutions. In that regard, the organization runs an international collaboration platform called "project place" and manages a record of initiatives. Lastly, its third area of work is influencing policies and international agendas in the run of social and solidarity economy. Thanks to its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the organization works on the sidelines of its own international meetings to promote social and solidarity economy. It was (is) a driving force behind the establishment of the International Leading Group on Social and Solidarity Economy, of which it is the co-secretariat, and is an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization changes its name to ESS Forum International on 25 January 2013.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Established in 2013 on the initiative of the President of the French Republic, the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy brings together States, international organizations and civil society organizations. Taking its inspiration from the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, it is a unique platform for discussing and sharing best practices on social and solidarity economy in order to promote, encourage and implement public policies at the local, national and international levels. ESS Forum International serves as the permanent secretariat.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

ESS Forum International organized the following meetings:

Side event entitled "Social and solidarity economy: changing economic relations for equality and sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda", eighth session of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, New York, 4 February 2014.

- "The implementation of public policies for the social and solidarity economy" and "The promotion and support of the social and solidarity economy enterprises in the world", first meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, New York, 22 September 2014

- Side event entitled "Social and solidarity economy for better financing of sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda", third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, 13 July 2015

- "What measures would support social and solidarity economy as part of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?", second meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, seventieth session of the General Assembly, New York, 28 September 2015

- "Social and solidarity economy: a key sector for sustainable urban development", third meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, seventy-first session of the General Assembly, New York, 20 September 2016

- Side event entitled "Social and solidarity economy: a key sector to implement the New Urban Agenda", United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Quito, 17 October 2016

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

EAS Forum International is an observer member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals guide all of the organization's activities, both in the initiatives it promotes or co-creates and in the advocacy events it organizes.

9. Organisation de défense de l'environnement au Burundi

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Organisation de défense de l'environnement au Burundi was established in 1992 and helps raise public awareness of the importance of environmental protection.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's vision is of a verdant landscape where fauna, flora and water resources are effectively conserved and managed and where a regular climate ensures the population's well-being in a sustainable manner. The organization's mission consists in: raising awareness of the urgent need for sustainable protection of ecosystems; tirelessly urging the political and administrative authorities to promote policies and implement in practice the laws on environmental protection; supporting population groups that take initiatives aimed at environmentally sustainable development and adopt measures for adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change; advocating good land governance; and prompting all those concerned with sustainable water-resource management to understand and assume their responsibilities.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has contributed to the mission of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies by monitoring implementation of the three Rio Conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. In that regard, it attended a number of meetings preparatory to the various conferences on climate change held in Paris, as well as those on biodiversity and desertification.

The organization has regularly observed the various international days dedicated to the environment, biodiversity and combating desertification. It has contributed technically and financially to the activities of World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It participated in the workshop to approve the provisional report of the country environmental analysis, in the workshop organized by the Kilimo Trust on the subject of the WaLETS (water, land, ecosystems and trade in staples) project, and in the workshop on forest landscape restoration in Burundi that took place within the framework of the Bonn Convention.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization took part in preparatory meetings at the national level aimed at establishing the parameters of Climatepredictionnat (CPDN) for the Paris climate conference in 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In Burundi, the organization participated in the workshop on the Global Environment Facility organized by the United Nations Development Programme. Since 2016, the organization has been implementing a capacity-building project on adaptation to climate change in partnership with Welthungerhilfe and has collaborated with the World Bank on identifying high-risk areas in Burundi.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization contributed to the attainment of Millennium Development Goal 1 by supporting cash-for-work measures in the area of watershed protection through seedling production and planting and payment for labour, thus providing income to more than 4,570 households for a period of six months of the year.

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 7, intensive awareness-raising and advocacy activities were undertaken, particularly in connection with updating the land code and the water code. The organization has contributed to environmental conservation by producing and planting 2,710,000 forest and agro-forestry seedlings.

10. Organisation des laics engagés du Sacré-Cœur pour le développement de Kimbond

Special, 2013

Introduction

This Kinshasa-based non-governmental organization is accredited as a civil society observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the organization are sustainable social development, environmental protection, and promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources and of human rights.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization changed its name to Organisation des laics engagés pour le développement durable in 2012.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has contributed to various activities relating to the agendas of the United Nations conferences in which it has participated. From 2013 to 2016, its projects aimed to:

- Promote sustainable social development in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promote environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Promote human rights in accordance with international law.
- Promote peacebuilding in accordance with the White Paper on Peacebuilding.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- Nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Warsaw, 11–22 November 2013.
- Fortieth session of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bonn, 4–15 June 2014.
- Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Seoul, 29 September to 17 October 2014.
- Eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada, 16–28 June 2014.
- Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan, 14–18 March 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No information provided.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No information provided.

11. Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale

Special, 2005

Introduction

This federation-type organization consists of 20 prenatal education associations active in 17 countries and on three continents.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to raise awareness of the importance of natural prenatal education as the foundation of parenthood and as a key factor in physical and mental health, which will contribute to the development of more humane and just societies.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has three new associations — in Austria, Cameroon and Germany.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has submitted written contributions to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly advocating the incorporation of two new paragraphs into the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the written document on children's rights. It submitted a proposal to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding education and the empowerment of women in 2013. It also participated in and submitted a proposal to the fourth public symposium organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 24 and 25 June 2013.

It provided training in prenatal education and communication to leaders of Belgian and Congolese non-governmental organizations at the Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) in 2014. On 10 November 2014, it organized an international symposium on sustainable development and the new paradigm in conjunction with the NGO Coalition in Geneva.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in the following meetings:

- Universal Children's Day to celebrate the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 2013.
- Session of the Economic and Social Council, Palais des Nations, Geneva, July 2013, including the submission of a written statement to the high-level segment on 5–10 July 2013.
- Meeting on protection and human rights, Palais Wilson, Geneva, 25 April 2013.
- International conference on a new paradigm, Geneva, 6 June 2013.

- World Investment Forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 13–16 October 2014, at which it made a statement.
- Children's Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, 20 September 2015.
- Commission on the Status of Women, 14–24 March 2016, to which it submitted a statement regarding the United Kingdom initiative entitled "1001 Critical Days".

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in the eleventh World Family Summit, which was organized by the World Family Organization and the Ministry of Health of China and held in Zhuhai, China in 2013. It contributed to the preparation of a document on the post-2015 United Nations agenda. It participated in the 2013 edition of the Global Prenatal Initiative, which was a partnership project launched under the auspices of the International Year of the Family. The organization met the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva through the NGO Liaison Unit in Geneva on 9 April and 23 May 2013. It has partnered with a ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, non-governmental organizations and UNCTAD officials.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The organization has contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing an international framework of good practices for prenatal awareness based on the "1001 Critical Days" model and the Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business. It conducted a training project in 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in conjunction with the Ministry for Women. In 2013, it ran a one-day workshop at a health centre in Huangshan, Taiping Lake, at the invitation of the National School of Nursing of Chongqing, China. On 8 March 2015, the organization took part in the march organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in New York.

12. Regards de femmes

Special, 2009

Introduction

Regards de femmes brings together women and men to take action in all areas of women's rights on the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others).

Aims and purposes of the organization

Regards de femmes endeavours to provide information and raise awareness of issues related to women's rights among United Nations programmes, institutions, the media, other organizations and the general public, through press releases, two websites, Facebook and Twitter, in order to encourage change in behaviour and practices to achieve gender equality in rights, duties and dignity.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Regards de femmes organizes, participates in and addresses international symposiums and conferences in Lyon, France, and around the world, on issues addressed by UN-Women:

- Economic empowerment: presentation entitled "New social dialogue to reduce gender inequality in business beyond 2015" at the Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique symposium held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 20 October 2015;

- Violence against women: participation in the meetings entitled "Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking", held in Geneva on 7 November 2014, and "Partners for universal access to contraception" held by the Ouagadougou Partnership in Paris on 18 December 2014; staging of a side event during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Actions to reject all violence or discrimination against women and girls in the name of customs or religion", held in New York on 10 March 2015; holding of a "Bring back our girls" rally in Lyon on 13 May 2014; continued activism, awareness-raising meetings, press releases and media interviews between 2014 and 2016;

- Girls' education: international symposium entitled "Girls' education: to make progress, obstacles in France and the rest of the world must be removed", held in Vénissieux, France, on 5 October 2014;

- Leadership and participation: remarks on political parity delivered to the Saarland parliament in Germany on 18 November 2013 and Ankara University in Turkey on 6 and 7 January 2015; symposium entitled "No democratic governance without women" held in Geneva on 7 September 2015; conference entitled "Women are getting involved", in the context of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris on 16 October 2015; African Association of Women for Research and Development symposium on "Civic rights and empowerment of women: obstacles and challenges in Africa", held in Dakar from 7 to 9 December 2015;

- Human rights, peace and security: Participation in the NGO consultation meeting on the implementation of the second national plan of action of France on women, peace and security, held in Paris on 9 December 2014; international symposium entitled "Secularism as a force and a shield for women" held in Lyon on 13 October 2014; Summit of la Francophonie on "Women and young people in French-speaking countries: vectors of peace, stakeholders in development", held in Dakar from 26 to 28 June 2014.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization took part in the fifty-seventh, fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York on 1–10 March 2013, 9–16 March 2014, 9–15 March 2015 and 12–21 March 2016 respectively. It contributed written statements to each session and held the following side events: "Sharing of good practices to facilitate birth registration", fifty-seventh session, 4 March 2013; "Strengthening the rights of women regarding birth registration", fifty-eighth session, 12 March 2014; and "Birth registration as a

prerequisite for the empowerment of women", sixtieth session, 14 and 20 March 2016.

In addition, the organization participated in the ECE regional meeting on the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2014, and the sixty-fifth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, held in New York on 28 August 2014, during which it held a side event entitled "Access to development for all depends on birth registration for every child". Lastly, the organization drafted an alternative report to coincide with the consideration of the periodic report of France by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which took place on 3, 4, 7 and 8 July in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Regards de femmes moderated the "Women and violence" group and led the summary of the discussions for a UNESCO meeting entitled "Global ethics and opportunities: women's contribution to the development of Europe and the Mediterranean", held from 11 to 14 September 2014 in Turin, Italy. The organization was invited to speak on the issue of birth registration at the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Statelessness in West Africa held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 23 and 24 February in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Regards de femmes participated in the preparatory meetings on the Sustainable Development Goals organized by France. On the issue of the right of every child to civil registration, it held an international symposium entitled "Children with no civil status, women with no rights", with statements delivered by UN-Women and the United Nations Development Programme, that took place in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, on 12 October 2013.

13. Reporters sans frontières international

Special, 1993

Introduction

Founded in 1985, Reporters sans frontières international is an independent organization that promotes freedom of the press. Based in Paris, the organization's foreign sections, bureaux in 10 cities and network of correspondents in 130 countries enable it to mobilize support, challenge Governments and wield influence both on the ground and in ministries and international and regional organizations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are to defend journalists and news providers and expose the oppression they face; champion freedom of the press and freedom of expression; support journalists and news providers; and take action to improve the safety of journalists.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has contributed to the work of the Human Rights Council on the following issues:

- Twenty-second session: journalists killed in 2012;
- Twenty-fourth session: shortcomings in the protection of journalists and news providers, the critical situation of journalists in the Syrian Arab Republic, the safety of journalists, 13 principles for a state surveillance framework, the need to protect whistle-blowers, and the safety of journalists;
- Twenty-fifth session: worsening of the situation for journalists during peaceful protests, whistle-blowers;
- Twenty-sixth session: business and human rights — mercenaries of the digital age, safety of journalists, importance of an independent judiciary for free access to information, persecution in Bahrain;
- Twenty-eighth session: the increased risk of reporting on protests, counter-terrorism and respect for freedom of information, news providers as the first line of defence for human rights defenders, the state of the world's press, call for the creation of the post of Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy;
- Twenty-ninth session: extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions of journalists, use of blasphemy laws to stifle freedom of expression;
- Thirtieth session: safety of journalists and impunity;
- Thirty-first session: torture and abuse of journalists and bloggers;
- Thirty-second session: state of press freedom in Turkey.

Reporters sans frontières international contributed to the following universal periodic reviews:

- Fifteenth session: Review of Israel;
- Sixteenth session: Review of Azerbaijan, Russian Federation;
- Seventeenth session: Review of Malaysia, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Mexico, China;
- Eighteenth session: Review of Eritrea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Viet Nam;
- Nineteenth session: Review of Equatorial Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia;
- Twentieth session: Review of Gambia, Madagascar, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Egypt;
- Twenty-first session: Review of Rwanda, Kuwait, Turkey;
- Twenty-third session: Review of Rwanda;
- Twenty-fourth session: Review of Somalia, Singapore;
- Twenty-fifth session: Review of Sudan;
- Twenty-seventh session: Review of Brazil, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Tunisia, Algeria, Poland, Bahrain, Morocco.

The organization sent a letter about attacks on journalists covering protests to the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. It raised the issue of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and

disappeared journalists with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Reporters sans frontieres international participated in the following meetings:

- Participation as a panellist in a side event on Burundi during the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council;
- Participation as a panellist in a side event on the safety of journalists in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Yemen during the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council;
- Statement delivered by the Director-General of the organization to the United Nations Security Council on 27 May 2015, welcoming the adoption of Council resolution 2222 (2015) on the protection of journalists in armed conflict;
- Participation in a UNESCO conference entitled "News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals", held on 5 February 2016;
- Participation in a panel during a UNESCO conference on protecting cultural heritage, held in Brussels on 9 June 2016;
- Participation in a panel on mechanisms for protecting journalists during a UNESCO conference organized for World Press Freedom Day, held in Helsinki on 3 May 2016;

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Reporters sans frontières international met the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, on 21 June 2016 to discuss the safety of journalists.

In addition, the organization contributed to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the application of General Assembly resolution 68/163 by Member States, in May 2014, and the report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (A/70/290), in May 2015.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

No activities were specified.

14. Rescue and Hope

Special, 2013

Introduction

Rescue and Hope is a not-for-profit NGO established in June 2006 in Benin. It works in seven of the country's departments and contributes to the welfare and socioeconomic and sanitary development of vulnerable segments of the population and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It works in the fields of health, education, agriculture, training and job placement, young people and sustainable development, sanitation, environmental and climate protection, and protection of women's and children's rights through training, awareness-raising and advocacy.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are to contribute to poverty reduction and the socioeconomic, sanitary and cultural development of grass-roots communities. Primarily, the organization provides effective support to individuals and grass-roots groups in identifying, developing and managing concerted actions aimed at improving their living conditions and fostering development. The ultimate aim of such efforts is to ensure the overall empowerment of the majority of grass-roots populations, improve the leadership skills of female leaders, uphold the rights of women and children, increase purchasing power, and raise public awareness of the need for the communities concerned to take responsibility in order to achieve sustainable human development.

Significant changes in the organization

In terms of change at the national level, the organization joined two networks of associations in Benin, which led it to expand its activities in the fields of the protection of women's and children's rights, female leadership and economic capacity-building for rural women in two additional departments in Benin. At the regional level, the organization joined the African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results and the Partnership of Civil Society Organizations for the Efficiency of Development in West Africa. In both, the organization has been active in efforts to develop proposals for planning and monitoring goals to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of development results.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

From November to December 2014, Rescue and Hope, acting on behalf of Réseau des organisations féminines d'Afrique francophone, of which it is a member, engaged in national advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the post-2015 agenda, on the theme "Gender in the post-2015 development agenda", which were aimed at the Government and civil society organizations working on gender issues. Since December 2015, it has held three national information days on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the implications for sustainable human development in Benin.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Rescue and Hope worked with the project manager of the United Nations Children's Fund in Benin.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The activities of Rescue and Hope are intended to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the following areas:

– Health: in 2016 and 2017, in partnership with the RAOFEM network, the organization carried out a project on HIV/AIDS entitled "Prevention of gender-based violence among key populations: sex workers and injecting drug users", funded by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in eight departments of Benin;

- Gender equality: in January 2015 the organization began a three-year project to strengthen the economic and institutional capacities of 32 groups of rural women and girls in the Toffo, Ze and Djidja communes (450 young people and 1,050 women);

- Promotion of economic growth: the organization established training and food processing centres to help struggling communities in the communes of Toffo, in the south, and Djougou, in the north.

- Environmental protection and efforts to combat climate change: since April 2011, the organization has held an annual training week on permaculture, the creation of a sustainable ecosystem and combating soil erosion for young pupils and students during the school holidays.

15. Villes de France

Special, 2013

Introduction

Villes de France is a pluralist French association composed of local elected officials (mayors and presidents of inter-communal bodies). Legally and financially independent from the French State, this non-governmental organization comprises cities and towns smaller than métropoles throughout the national territory, where nearly half of the French population, or approximately 32 million people, live. It seeks to promote and support the action of more than 600 French cities and 300 inter-communal bodies.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The association Villes de France supports projects dealing with local governance, economic development and sustainable development, as well as the actions of decentralized international cooperation led by its members. In general, the organization promotes local democracy, sustainable development and international cooperation among local communities.

Significant changes in the organization

In June 2014, the general assembly of the organization formally approved a name change. The association formerly known as the "Fédération des villes moyennes" would henceforth be called "Villes de France"; the organization's by-laws were amended accordingly. The name change was duly recorded by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in May 2016.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the context of a partnership with the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, Villes de France prepared a handbook entitled "Cooperation in motion!", several thousand copies of which were distributed. Officially developed under the umbrella of the Millennium Development Goals, this handbook promoted a number of specific international cooperation actions launched by cities and selected for their exemplary nature. In particular, this publication was able to highlight the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its strategic priorities, including a presentation of the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, Villes de France participated in the annual meetings of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with non-governmental organizations.

From 27 January to 7 February 2014, Villes de France attended the eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, in particular to monitor the countries with which certain Villes de France members have decentralized cooperation partnerships.

On 7 and 8 July 2014, reflecting its particular interest in the theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development chosen by the United Nations Economic and Social Council for 2014, the organization submitted a written contribution to thoughts on the future of the post-2015 global development agenda.

Villes de France participated in the working groups leading up to the 7th World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in Medellin (Colombia) from 5 to 11 April 2014, and to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito (Ecuador), from 17 to 20 October 2016.

Villes de France actively followed the proceedings of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015. The organization was also represented at the Climate Summit for Local Leaders on 4 December 2015 in Paris (France), an event attended by mayoral delegations from all over the world.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

Villes de France has helped to publicize in the territorial collectivities the call for projects in the context of the Thematic and Territorial Human Development Networks Support Programme) of the United Nations Development Programme in 2014 and 2015.

The organization regularly reports to territorial collectivities on the work of the United Nations, and especially of the Economic and Social Council, via topical articles in its weekly magazine "Ondes Urbaines" (which has 15,000 subscribers) and in particular in articles in the following issues: 13 March 2013, 5 February 2014, 14 May 2014, 18 May 2016, 21 May 2014, 16 July 2014, 12 November 2014, 4 February 2015, 5 October 2016 and 7 September 2016.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The work of Villes de France with its network is aligned with a number of United Nations priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goals 7 and 8 (to ensure environmental sustainability and to develop a global partnership for development).

16. Yelen

Special, 2013

Introduction

Yelen is a non-governmental organization active locally and internationally. It works for the integration of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa in the Genevois region of France, trains social actors (social workers, educators, mayors' offices,

hospitals, etc.) in intercultural affairs and runs decentralized cooperation activities between the community of communes of the Bas-Chablais and the rural community of Ndande in Senegal.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Yelen aims to contribute to development efforts, as well as to all activities directly or indirectly related to them. It also seeks to contribute to the personal economic, social and cultural development of persons with difficulties accessing common law mechanisms in these countries, particularly immigrants and displaced persons.

Significant changes in the organization

The association's activity throughout the Genevois region has greatly increased because of the migration crisis. Its work in Senegal has likewise multiplied and diversified to include waste management, sanitation, environment, and health. In addition, since 2013, the association has been part of the Cité de la Solidarité Internationale in Annemasse, France.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Yelen organized a session for awareness-raising and the dissemination of information on Ebola, in partnership with the World Health Organization. The association is part of the network "Réseau des Acteurs de la Solidarité Internationale" in Annemasse and works on waste and water issues. It has conducted a study on water problems in Darou, Senegal, in partnership with the organizations Women Engage for a Common Future and InterSolidar.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The association has participated in meetings, symposia and conferences.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

Yelen has organized a meeting on migrant rights scheduled to take place in 2017 in collaboration with AIDES, Destination Justice, Groupe SIDA Genève, the International Organization for Migration, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, and the Cité de la Solidarité Internationale of Annemasse.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Yelen took the following initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

- Goal 1: A project was launched to help women in Ndande, Senegal, by providing micro-credit for the cultivation of bissap with a view to increasing their income;
- Goal 2: 3,000 books were delivered to Ndande to establish a local library;
- Goal 3: Ndande women's groups were supported through training, education, awareness-raising, and opening of bank accounts;
- Goals 4, 5 and 6: Health workers in Kebemer district in Senegal were given training and information; and awareness-raising campaigns were conducted at health centres; and